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**OP0132** **LOW-DOSE INTERLEUKIN-2 SELECTIVELY RESTORE REGULATORY T CELL NUMBERS IN PATIENTS WITH BEHCET'S DISEASE**

X. Fu<sup>1</sup>, J. Li<sup>2</sup>, X. Li<sup>2</sup>, J. Luo<sup>2</sup>, C. Gao<sup>2</sup>, Q. Chen<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Rheumatism; <sup>2</sup>The Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan, China

**Background:** The lack of CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup>Foxp3<sup>+</sup> T regulatory cell (Treg) has been associated with human systemic autoimmune diseases, such as Behcet's disease (BD). IL-2, an essential growth and survival factor for Treg cells. However, the significance of Treg cells in the pathogenesis and the effect of low dose of IL-2 on BD are remain to investigate.

**Objectives:** The lack of CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup>Foxp3<sup>+</sup> T regulatory cell (Treg) has been associated with human systemic autoimmune diseases, such as Behcet's disease (BD). IL-2, an essential growth and survival factor for Treg cells. However, the significance of Treg cells in the pathogenesis and the effect of low dose of IL-2 on BD are remain to investigate.

**Methods:** Eighty patients with BD and seventy healthy donors were enrolled. CD4<sup>+</sup>T cell subsets in peripheral blood mononuclear cells from these people were measured by multicolour flow cytometry. Twenty-six patients were treated daily with subcutaneous injections of 0.5 million IU of human IL-2 for five consecutive days, CD4<sup>+</sup>T cell subsets were analysed before and after treatment by flow cytometry.

**Results:** Compared to health control, the absolute counts of circulating Treg cells were significantly decreased in patients with BD (median:29.93 cell/uL VS median:33.16 cell/uL; p=0.039) and it is negative correlation with disease activity. While the ratios of Th17/Treg in patients with BD (median:0.29;n=80,p=0.034) were significantly higher than those of health control (median:0.2;n=70). No difference in the absolute counts of circulating Th17 cells (CD4<sup>+</sup>IL-17<sup>+</sup>) between patients with BD and health control. Treatment of patients with BD with a low-dose of IL-2 regimen selectively increased the absolute counts of Treg cells, from a median of 18.97cell/uL to 74.68 cell/uL (at 5 days) (p=0.000). No significant difference was observed in the absolute counts of circulating Th17, Th1 and Th2 cells after IL-2 treatment.

**Conclusions:** Th17/Treg cells may play a role in the pathogenesis of Patients with BD, low-dose of IL-2 proposes a selective biological treatment strategy by restoring immune tolerance.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None declared

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**OP0133** **COLOUR DOPPLER ULTRASONOGRAPHY OF FACIAL AND OCCIPITAL ARTERIES IN PATIENTS WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS: THE FREQUENCY OF INVOLVEMENT AND THE ROLE OF THEIR ASSESSMENT IN DAILY PRACTICE: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY**

R. Jese, Ž. Rotar, M. Tomšič, A. Hočvar. Department of Rheumatology, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Background:** Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most common systemic large and medium size artery vasculitis in Western countries. Colour Doppler Sonography (CDS) allows us to study the involvement of the cranial arteries other than the temporal arteries in GCA which cannot be safely biopsied such as the facial (FaA), and occipital (OcA) arteries.

**Objectives:** We aimed to estimate the frequency of the FaA, and OcA involvement in GCA; and to explore the clinical characteristics of these subgroups of patients.

**Methods:** From 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016, we prospectively performed a CDS of the FaA, and OcA in addition to the temporal (TA), and the extracranial supra-aortic arteries in all newly diagnosed patients suspected of having GCA. We used a Philips IU22 with a 5–17.5 MHz multi-frequency linear probe from January 2014 to August 2016 and a Philips Epiq 7 with a 5–18 MHz multi-frequency linear probe from September 2016 to December 2016. All the arteries were evaluated in two planes for the highly specific *halo*-sign.

**Results:** During the 36-month observation period we performed a CDS of the cranial and extra-cranial arteries in 93 GCA (66.7% female) patients. The patients' median (IQR) age was 73.7 (66.1–79.1) years, and they had a median (IQR) symptom duration of 30 (21–90) days. We observed the *halo*-sign on the FaA, and OcA in 38 (40.9%), and 29 (31.2%) cases, respectively. The FaA, and OcA were simultaneously affected in 18/93 (19.4%) cases. The FaA, or OcA were affected in 4/22 (18.2%) patients with a negative TA CDS. Patients with an FaA involvement had the highest frequency of severe visual manifestations, with permanent visual loss representing 70% of all visual manifestations. Patients with an OcA involvement least commonly had extracranial large vessel disease.

**Conclusions:** A fifth of patients with a negative CDS of the TAs had signs of vasculitis only on the CDS of the FaA, or OcA. The CDS of the FaA, and OcA

identified approximately 5% more patients with GCA than the CDS of the TA alone.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None declared

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**OP0134** **LONG TERM OUTCOME AND PROGNOSIS FACTORS OF COMPLICATIONS IN TAKAYASU'S ARTERITIS: MULTICENTER STUDY OF 318 PATIENTS**

C. Comarmond<sup>1</sup>, L. Biard<sup>2</sup>, M. Lambert<sup>3</sup>, A. Mekinian<sup>4</sup>, Y. Ferfar<sup>1</sup>, J.-E. Kahn<sup>5</sup>, Y. Benhamou<sup>6</sup>, L. Chiche<sup>7</sup>, F. Koskas<sup>7</sup>, P. Cluzel<sup>8</sup>, E. Hachulla<sup>9</sup>, E. Messas<sup>9</sup>, M. Resche-Rigon<sup>10</sup>, T. Mirault<sup>9</sup>, P. Cacoub<sup>1</sup>, D. Saadoun<sup>1</sup> on behalf of French Takayasu network. <sup>1</sup>Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology, GROUPE HOSPITALIER PITIÉ-SALPÊTRIÈRE; <sup>2</sup>Saint-Louis, Paris; <sup>3</sup>Internal Medicine, CHU Lille, Lille; <sup>4</sup>Internal Medicine, CHU Saint-Antoine, Paris; <sup>5</sup>Internal Medicine, Foch, Suresnes; <sup>6</sup>Internal Medicine, CHU Rouen, Rouen; <sup>7</sup>Vascular surgery; <sup>8</sup>Imagerie Cardiovasculaire et de Radiologie Interventionnelle, GROUPE HOSPITALIER PITIÉ-SALPÊTRIÈRE; <sup>9</sup>Vascular Medicine, HEGP; <sup>10</sup>SBIM, Saint-Louis, Paris, France

**Objectives:** To assess long term outcome and to elaborate a prognostic score for vascular complications in patients with Takayasu arteritis (TA).

**Methods:** Retrospective multicenter study of characteristics and outcome of 318 TA patients [86% of females; median age 36 [25–47] years; median follow-up of 6.1 years] fulfilling ACR and/or Ishikawa criteria. Factors associated with the event free survival (EFS), relapse free survival (RFS) and incidence of vascular complications were assessed. A prognostic score for vascular complications was elaborated based on a multivariate model.

**Results:** The 5- and 10-years event free survival (EFS), relapse free survival (RFS) and complication free survival were 48.2% (42.2;54.9) and 36.4% (30.3;43.9), 58.6% (52.7;65.1) and 47.7% (41.2;55.1), and 69.9% (64.3;76) and 53.7% (46.8;61.7), respectively. Progressive disease course (p=0.018) and carotidodysplasia (p=0.036) were independently associated with EFS. Male gender (p=0.048), elevated C reactive protein level (p=0.013), and carotidodysplasia (p=0.003) were associated with RFS. Progressive disease course (p=0.017), thoracic aorta involvement (p=0.009), and retinopathy (p=0.002) were associated with complication free survival. We define high risk patients for vascular complications according to the presence of two of the following factors (i.e a progressive clinical course, thoracic aorta involvement and/or retinopathy). The probability of complication free survival at five years was 78.4% (69.4;88.6) and 51.5% (38.3;69.2) in the low risk and high risk group, respectively.

**Conclusions:** This nationwide study shows that 50% of TA patients will relapse and experience a vascular complication at 10 years. We could define high risk TA patients for vascular complications.

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**OP0135** **TOCILIZUMAB IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS: GIACTA TRIAL VERSUS A SERIES OF PATIENTS FROM CLINICAL PRACTISE**

L.C. Domínguez-Casas<sup>1</sup>, J. Loricera<sup>1</sup>, A. Mera<sup>2</sup>, E. Pérez-Pampín<sup>2</sup>, J.L. Hernández<sup>3</sup>, S. Castañeda<sup>4</sup>, N. Vegas-Revenega<sup>1</sup>, E. Pons<sup>1</sup>, M.Á. González-Gay<sup>1</sup>, R. Blanco<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Rheumatology, Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla. IDIVAL, Santander; <sup>2</sup>Rheumatology, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Santiago, Santiago de Compostela; <sup>3</sup>Internal Medicine, Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla. IDIVAL, Santander; <sup>4</sup>Rheumatology, Hospital Universitario de la Princesa, Madrid, Spain

**Background:** Baseline characteristics of patients from GiACTA trial have been recently reported at the ACR-2016 conference (1). GiACTA trial is a randomized, phase III controlled clinical trial evaluating the efficacy of tocilizumab (TCZ) in giant cell arteritis (GCA) (2). We had previously published a multicenter study on the use of TCZ in refractory GCA in a clinical practice setting (3).

**Objectives:** Our aim was to compare both studies, emphasizing on the baseline characteristics of the patients.

**Methods:** Comparative study between the GiACTA trial and our multicenter clinical practice study. In the latter, the diagnosis of GCA was established by the clinical practice study, TCZ was used at standard IV dose (8 mg/kg/month), while in the GiACTA trial it was given subcutaneously (162 mg every 1 or 2 weeks, depending on the therapeutic arm). Quantitative variables were expressed as mean ± SD and were compared with the Student's t-test. Dichotomous variables were expressed as percentages and compared using the chi-square test.

**Results:** In the GiACTA trial, 47.4% were newly diagnosed GCAs, while in the clinical practice study were all refractory to conventional treatment. The TABLE summarizes the main baseline characteristics of both studies. Compared with the GiACTA trial, in the clinical practice study were significantly greater: a) the mean time between the diagnosis of GCA and the onset of TCZ, b) the proportion of patients with polymyalgia rheumatica and ischemic optic neuritis, c) the proportion of positive PET/CT scans, d) the mean value of ESR, and e) the proportion of patients who had received conventional immunosuppressant agents (mainly MTX) before starting TCZ. There was also a significant lower proportion of sustained remission in the clinical practice study. When only GiACTA patients with