

associated with spondyloarthritis (including also IBD) were the most frequent (68 patients, 61%). Focusing on this group, 57.4% were male with a mean age of 49±15.8 years. 73.5% were HLAB27 positive and 76% had radiologic sacroiliitis. In 24 patients (35.3%) the diagnosis of spondyloarthritis was made after the anamnesis in the uveitis unit. The diagnosis was already known in the other cases. The spondyloarthritis subtypes are described in the table.

Diagnosis	n (%)
Ankylosing spondylitis	33 (48.5)
Non radiographic axial spondyloarthritis	13 (19.1)
Psoriatic arthritis	5 (7.4)
IBD spondyloarthritis	5 (7.4)
Peripheral spondyloarthritis	4 (5.9)
Juvenile idiopathic arthritis	4 (5.9)
IBD (without Joint involvement)	3 (4.4)
Reactive arthritis	1 (1.5)
Total	68 (100)

According to the anatomical distribution, 95.6% were anterior uveitis (AU), followed by the intermediate and posterior ones (1.5% both). 85.3% has unilateral involvement and 10.3% bilateral. Relapsing acute AU was the most frequent pattern (73.5%), followed by non-relapsing acute AU (16.2%) and chronic AU (7.4%).

24 patients (35.3%) required treatment with DMARD to achieve uveitis control. The most commonly used drugs were salazopyrine (7 patients), methotrexate (6 patients), mycophenolate (1), and in another 6 patients anti-TNF treatment was started or the previous dose of the biological was adjusted.

The visual acuity (VA) was not perfect (VA≠1 in both eyes) in 35% in the first collected visit. 28% (19 patients) had cataract, and 19% (13) had ocular hypertension. Only 1 patient had bilateral cystoid macular edema. Follow-up data were available for 43 patients and VA was stable in 47%, worsening in 23% and improving in 30% (median follow-up time 23 months, IQR: 6–41)

Conclusions: Our work confirms that in spondyloarthritis the most frequent pattern of ocular involvement is relapsing acute AU. Spondyloarthritis diagnosis was made at the uveitis unit in 35% of patients. More than one-third of patients required systemic therapy for ocular involvement control. Thirty-five percent of the patients had a reduced VA, remaining stable or improving in most, during the follow-up.

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AB0714 DIFFERENTIATING CHARACTERISTICS IN PATIENTS WITH SPONDYLOARTHRITIS WHO HAVE RECEIVED DIFFERENT ANTI-TNF THERAPIES

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Background: The term spondyloarthritis (SpA) encompass a group of chronic inflammatory disease with predominant axial involvement. Anti-TNF therapy (AT) has stirred up the management of these diseases. Nevertheless, according to nationwide registries of the drug continuation rate in several countries, the rate of treatment failure is considerable. Nowadays there are insufficient data to evaluate the differences between responders (Resp-AT) and non-responders (Nonresp-AT) to anti-TNF therapy.

Objectives: To compare the main sociodemographic, clinical and analytical features at baseline, after 6 months of treatment and at the end of the first anti-TNF therapy of responders to a first anti-TNF therapy and non-responders to several anti-TNF therapies form our cohort of patients diagnosed with SpA. We also analyzed the association between drug levels (DL) and antidrug antibody (ADA) in non-responders to several anti-TNF.

Methods: 181 patients were included, 155 (85%) kept receiving their first AT therapy (responders) and 26 (15%) had discontinued at least two different AT therapies. The main demographic features, disease activity (BASDAI, ASDAS, CRP and ESR) were measured at baseline, after 6 months (v-6) and when the first AT was discontinued. Serum drug levels and/or ADA were measured at drug discontinuation of anti-TNF treatment and last visit in non-responders and responders respectively.

Results: The mean age was 55.3±15 and 50±10.8 in the resp-AT and nonresp-AT groups, respectively. The demographic and clinical characteristics of both groups are shown in Table 1. At baseline, a lower BMI was observed in the resp-AT group (25.6±5 resp-AT, 28.7±5 nonresp-AT, p=0.013); 59% and 35% were in concomitant treatment with DMARDs at baseline in the resp-AT and nonresp-AT groups respectively (p=0.032); 33% of the resp-AT were in monotherapy in the last visit compared to 62% of the nonresp-AT when discontinued the 1st AT (p=0.008). There were no differences in BASDAI (5.6±2 resp-AT, 6.1±1.9 nonresp-AT, p=0.2) and ASDAS (3.3±1.1 resp-AT, 3.4±1.1 nonresp-AT, p=0.8) at baseline. In v-6, the resp-AT group had a better clinical response in terms of BASDAI (3.2±2.3 in resp-AT, 4.7±2.4 in nonresp-AT, p=0.004) and ASDAS (1.7±0.9 in resp-AT, 2.7±1.2 in nonresp-AT, p=0.00), as well as in the delta-ASDAS (ΔASDAS) (1.56±1.2 resp-AT, 0.7±0.9 nonresp-AT, p=0.04). However, delta-BASDAI (ΔBASDAI) showed no difference between the two groups (2.3±2.3 resp-AT, 1.5±1.6 nonresp-AT, p=0.1).

Population=181	Controls (n=155)	Cases (n=26)	p
Baseline			
Age	55.3±15	50±10.8	0,009
Sex (male)	104 (67%)	16 (62%)	0,6
B27+	93 (74%)	15 (62%)	0,3
BMI	25,5±5,3	28,7±5	0,013
Smokers	26	8	0,056
Disease duration (years)	9,5 ±12	7,6±9,3	0,4
RX (133):			
Sacroiliitis	65	14	0,6
MRI (37):			
Sacroiliitis	16	2	1
Uveitis	27	6	0,5
Enthesitis	53	16	0,015
Dactylitis	8	0	0,6
Peripheral	88	11	0,2
Psoriasis	16	5	
CRP baseline	16,7±23,7	12,3±21,3	0,4
ESR baseline	25,6±23,5	22±16	0,5
BASDAI baseline	5,6±2	6,1±1,9	0,2
ASDAS baseline	3,3±1,1	3,3±1,1	0,8
FAMES baseline	91	9	0,03
At 6 months			
BASDAI	3,2±2,3	4,7±2,4	0,004
ASDAS	1,7±0,9	2,7±1,2	0,00
ΔBASDAI	2,3±2,3	1,5±1,6	0,1
ΔASDAS	1,5±1,2	0,7±0,9	0,004
At drug discontinuation			
Monoterapia	51	16	0,08
Drug levels	138	13	0,02
ADA	1	4	0,00

24% of the nonresp-AT were ADA + at drug discontinuation, while only 0.7% of the AT-resp (AT) were ADA + (p=0.00) at last visit.

Conclusions: In our cohort of patients with axial SpA, a significant improvement in BASDAI, ASDAS and ΔASDAS after 6 months of treatment is associated with a lower frequency of drop-out of the first AT. Moreover a lower BMI, DMARDs at baseline and absence of ADA determine a better response to AT treatment.

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AB0715 DIFFERENCES IN THE CO-MORBIDITIES DESCRIBED FROM SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH OR WITHOUT CONCOMITANT FIBROMYALGIA

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Objectives: To assess the differences in the occurrence of co-morbidities from cardiovascular, respiratory, renal/urological and Central nervous systems (CNS) between patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) not having headache as presenting symptom and those having headache assuming that those describing headache represent secondary (s) fibromyalgia (FM). (previous submitted abstract provides justification on headache as presenting symptom associated with secondary sFM).

Methods: Data obtained through a questionnaire from 776 patients seen in clinic with SpA was analysed with reference to headache as symptom at presentation. From the total 776 patients 13 patients did not record an answer to the question and were hence excluded. The remaining 763 patients were divided in 2 groups: Those having headache at presentation (n=117) considered having sFM, and those not having headache at presentation (n=656).

	Headache at presentation (n=117)	No headache at presentation (n=656)	Statistical significance (p)	CI
Age (mean ± SD)	47.7 (13.16)	48.3 (14.3)	0.1	-5.757 to 0.912
Gender (M:F) ratio	28:89 1:3.1	219:419 1:1.9	0.3	-0.025 to 0.077
Disease duration	11.4 (12.1)	10.9 (10.8)	0.4	-1.905 to 4.470
Delay in diagnosis	6.43 (8.9)	6.3 (8.1)	0.7	-3.151 to 2.151
ESR	15.5 (14.8)	18.2 (18)	0.07	-11.064 to 0.582
CRP	10.4 (36)	8.2 (9.8)	0.4	-6.106 to 12.536
BASDAI score	7.31 (3.7)	6.06 (2.08)	0.000	0.783 to 2.624
			(<0.005)	
BASFI score	5.6 (2.7)	5.04 (2.7)	0.09	-0.143 to 1.626
Main problem				
Fatigue	77/116 (66.4%)	340/608 (55.9%)	0.018	0.029 to 0.299
Pain with pressure	71/117 (61.2%)	257/807 (42.4%)	0.000	0.122 to 0.378
Co-morbidities				
Heart	16/100 (16%)	59/479 (12.3%)	0.002	0.44 to 0.196
Lungs	11/99 (11.1%)	52/475 (10.9%)	0.1	-0.14 to 0.135
Dizziness	50 (104) 48.1%	147/408 (30.1%)	0.000	0.220 to 0.453
Numbness	58 (105) 55.2%	199/505 (39.4%)	0.000	0.188 to 0.441
Kidneys/urology	23 (102) 22.5%	100/479 (20.9%)	0.1	-0.31 to 0.188

The data of patients with sFM were compared with the data of patients who did not report headache as a presentation symptom therefore not having FM with regards to age, disease duration, delay in diagnosis, disease activity (BASDAI) functional ability (BASFI), ESR, CRP and associated co morbidities from cardiovascular, respiratory, renal/urinary, and CNS systems. Central nervous system was evaluated by symptoms of dizziness and numbness.

Independent sample T test was used to explore differences between the 2 groups and confidence intervals obtained.

Results: Table shows demographics and disease characteristics as well as differences between SpA patients presenting with headache (indicating secondary FM), and those not presenting with headache. A greater proportion of patients with SpA and headache (sFM) report cardiovascular and CNS co-morbidities. There was no significant difference noted in the respiratory or renal/ urological co-morbidities amongst the 2 sub-groups.

Conclusions: A significantly higher proportion of patients described cardiovascular and CNS co-morbidities in the sFM group of SpA. No significant difference was noted in the 2 sub-groups with regards to the respiratory or renal systems.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

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AB0716 PREVALENCE OF STRUCTURAL LESIONS TYPICAL FOR AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS IN YOUNG MILITARY RECRUITS BEFORE AND AFTER MECHANICAL STRESS

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Background: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has become the imaging modality of choice in early SpA. Not only has this imaging technique proven useful in the identification of inflammatory lesions on T2 FS/STIR sequences, also structural lesions such as erosions, sclerosis, fat infiltration and ankylosis can be seen on T1 sequences. There is still ongoing debate concerning the possible inclusion of any structural lesion in the definition of a positive MRI in order to improve specificity. However, erosions and fat infiltration have also been found in respectively more than 10% and 17% of non-SpA patients on MRI of the sacroiliac joints. [1]

Objectives: To evaluate the presence of structural lesions on MRI of the sacroiliac joints (MRI-SIJ) in young, asymptomatic subjects.

Methods: Twenty-five military recruits volunteered to perform a MRI-SIJ before and after 6 week of intense physical training, of which 22 recruits underwent imaging at both time points. The MRIs were scored for structural lesions by 3 trained readers MdH, GV and TR, blinded for time sequence and clinical findings. Regarding the number of lesions a consensus was made by agreement of 2 out of 3 readers.

Results: At baseline, structural lesions were present in 36.4% (8/22) of subjects of which 5 subjects presented with at least 1 erosion, one subject with sclerosis and 3 subjects presented fatty lesions. This increased to 50% subjects (11/22) with structural lesions on MRI-SIJ after 6 weeks of mechanical stress, of which 8 subjects with at least 1 erosion, one subject with sclerosis and 3 subjects with fatty lesions (P=0.453). The change scores for sclerosis, erosions and fatty lesions were respectively 0.0 (±0.0), 0.2 (±0.1) and 0.3 (±0.2). None of the subjects displayed ankylosis. The lesion distribution is visualized in Table1.

Table 1. Number of structural lesions in young military recruits before and after intensive training

N=22	Baseline	Week 6	P-value
Sclerosis			
Mean (±SD)	0.05 (±0.05)	0.05 (±0.05)	1.00
Median (25, 75 percentile)	0.0 (0.0, 0.0)	0.0 (0.0, 0.0)	
Erosions			
Mean (±SD)	0.32 (±0.14)	0.55 (±0.17)	0.096
Median (25, 75 percentile)	0.0 (0.0, 0.25)	0.0 (0.0, 1.0)	
Fatty lesions			
Mean (±SD)	1.0 (±0.86)	1.3 (±1.0)	0.285
Median (25, 75 percentile)	0.0 (0.0, 0.0)	0.0 (0.0, 0.0)	

Conclusions: Although not prevalent, structural lesions such as erosions, sclerosis and fatty lesions can be found in young asymptomatic subjects. However, these lesions do not seem to increase after 6 week of intense physical training.

References:

[1] Weber U, Lambert RG, Ostergaard M, Hodler J, Pedersen SJ, Maksymowych WP. The diagnostic utility of magnetic resonance imaging in spondylarthritis: an international multicenter evaluation of one hundred eighty-seven subjects. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2010;62(10):3048–58.

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AB0717 CONDUCTION DISTURBANCES IN A GROUP OF PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

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Background: Cardiac conduction disturbances are known to be one of the many extra-articular manifestations of Ankylosing Spondylitis but not as well related to axial spondyloarthropathies.

Objectives: Description of conduction disturbances found in a group of patients with Axial Spondyloarthropathy (AxSpa) that met ASAS criteria.

Methods: Clinical and demographic variables of 78 patients with AxSpa were registered. It included cardiovascular risk factors as well as cardiovascular adverse events. All of them had a routine electrocardiogram done which were analyzed by a cardiologist.

Results: 48 of the 78 patients were men, with a mean age of 61 with standard deviation (SD) of 14. The mean time of evolution of the disease was 23 years (SD ±16). HLA-B27 was prevalent in 54 (69.2%). The sacroileitis was found in radiologic examination of 72 (92.2%), and 6 (7.7%) of them presented edema in magnetic resonance imaging. Other clinical traits were: 43 (55.1%) peripheral arthritis 43, 8 (10.3%) dactylitis, 33 (42.3%) enthesitis, 16 uveitis (20.5%), 2 (2.6%) inflammatory bowel disease and psoriasis 34 (43.3%). The following cardiovascular risk factors were registered: 25 (32%) smokers, 42 (53%) hypertension, 32 (41%) dyslipemia, 9 (12%) diabetes, 9 (12%) hyperuricemia and 20 (20%) obesity. 14 patients had structural cardiopathy (11 ischemic cardiopathy and 3 aortic valvulopathy). The electrocardiographic register showed conduction disorders in 20 patients (25.6%). The details of these findings are specified in table 1.

First grade auriculoventricular block	5
Second and third grade auriculoventricular block	2
Left anterior fascicular block	1
Right bundle branch block	2
Unspecific intraventricular conduction disorder	4
Bachmann interatrial conduction disorder	1

Conclusions: A quarter of our series of presented conduction disturbances in electrocardiography. The relation with disease evolution, as in Ankylosing Spondylitis remains yet to be analyzed.

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AB0718 PREVALENCE OF RISK FACTORS FOR FRACTURES IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Background: Spinal fractures occur more than expected in axial spondyloarthritis (Ax-Sp). However, it is not totally clear whether fracture risk depends solely on biomechanical problems of the spondyloarthritic spine or whether the prevalence of risk factors for fracture is larger than expected in these patients.

Objectives: To describe the prevalence of risk factors for osteoporotic fractures (both axial and peripheral) in Ax-Sp.

Methods: A systematic literature search was conducted. Medline, Embase and Cochrane Library databases were searched with a sensitive strategy including type of study and synonyms of Ax-Sp. All contemporary cross sectional studies or baseline results from representative cohorts of Ax-Sp published between January 2006 and 2016 were selected for detailed review. Only studies that fulfilled a minimum quality for survey data were included. Data on bone mineral density, prevalence of osteoporosis, and risk factor for fractures in Ax-Sp patients were collected.

Results: After screening 3597 titles and abstracts, only 43 studies (34 cross-sectional, 3 prospective and 6 retrospective) were reviewed in detail. Of these, 20 studies compared Ax-Sp patients with a control group, either healthy individuals (17 studies) or subjects with other diseases (6 studies). Reported prevalence of osteoporosis varied from 2% to 39.6%. Alcohol intake (58–61%), use of corticosteroids (11.7–67%), and 25-OH vitamin D deficit (26–76%) were unexpectedly high in Ax-Sp patients. All other factors were within expected frequencies for a not too old population.

Conclusions: Our systematic review found that alcohol intake, steroid use and 25-OH-vitamin D deficit should be taken into account when assessing comorbidity in Ax-Sp in order to avoid excess fractures.

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