

(NEO) and disease activity. However, the compared mortality of Mixed Connective Tissue Disease (MCTD), Systemic Sclerosis (SSc), Poly/Dermatomyositis (PM/DM), overlap syndromes (OS), Sjögren's syndrome (SS), Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS), systemic vasculitis (SV), and undifferentiated or incomplete Connective Tissue Disease (UCTD) is poorly described.

**Objectives:** To analyze the causes of death and the autoantibodies (AAB) profile among the SARD.

**Methods:** This was a single center, prospective and observational study. Mortality by all causes and relationship with AAB profile were analyzed in patients diagnosed of SLE, MCTD, SSc, PM/DM, OS (simultaneous or sequential criteria of 2 or more SARD), SS, APS, SV and UCTD or incomplete SARD (at least one clinical criterion of the classification criteria and a related antibody of any of the SARD). Data were obtained from the "Systemic Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases Registry" of a tertiary referral hospital from 1986 to 2016. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis were excluded. The SARD registry counts with the institutional review board approval.

**Results:** 1750 patients were included, of whom 1453 (83%) were women. Five hundred fifty six SLE, 125 SSc, 111 PM/DM, 91 OS, 90 MCTD, 250 SS, 71 APS, 211 SV, 117 UCTD and 128 losses to follow-up, the global follow up rate was 92.7%. A global mortality of 350 (20%) cases was observed: 101 INF (28.8%), 89 CV (25.4%), 51 NEO (14.5%), 45 due to disease activity (12.8%), 41 other causes (11.7%) and 23 from unknown causes (6.5%). Table 1 shows detailed mortality causes compared by diseases. A higher mortality was associated ( $p < 0.05$ ) with older patients (71 years, 20–96), SV (OR 3.65), male patients (OR 1.95), SSc/PM/DM (OR 1.76), MCTD (OR 1.6) and OS (OR 1.43). AAB to pANCA (OR 4.43), anti-topoisomerase I (OR 3.64), myositis-specific AAB (OR 3.0), cANCA (OR 2.19) and anticardiolipin (OR 1.89) were associated with poorer survival. A higher survival rate was observed in patients with SLE (OR 1.7), SS (OR 1.69) and UCTD (OR 15.57) ( $p < 0.05$ ).

CAUSES	SLE, %	SSC, %	MCTD, %	SV, %	PM/DM, %	OS, %	SS, %	APS, %
CV	<b>30,86</b>	<b>27,02</b>	<b>42,3</b>	25,55	18,18	16,12	17,64	21,4
INF	27,16	21,62	3,84	<b>36,66</b>	<b>33,33</b>	<b>45,16</b>	23,52	21,4
NEO	14,81	13,51	15,38	8,88	18,18	9,67	<b>26,47</b>	14,28
ACTIVITY	9,87	18,91	19,23	11,11	12,12	19,35	11,76	<b>28,57</b>
OTHER	8,64	13,51	11,53	15,55	9,09	3,22	8,82	0,00
UNKNOWN	8,64	5,40	7,69	2,22	9,09	6,45	11,76	14,28

**Conclusions:** The main causes of death among SARD patients are CV (MCTD, SLE, and SSc), severe infections (OS, SV, and PM/DM), disease activity (APS) and neoplasia (SS). A higher mortality is observed among ANCA positive SV, anti-topoisomerase I positive SSc, MCTD, OS, anticardiolipin and myositis-specific positive patients.

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#### FRI0684 EARLY TREATMENT WITH METHOTREXATE IMPROVES ALL-CAUSE AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURVIVAL AMONG AN INCEPTION COHORT OF SENIORS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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**Background:** We previously observed that incident RA patients have an increased risk of all-cause and cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality relative to the general population in Ontario.<sup>1</sup>

**Objectives:** To evaluate the effect of treatment and other factors on all-cause and CVD mortality among incident senior RA patients.

**Methods:** We studied incident RA patients within the population-based Ontario Rheumatoid Arthritis Database (ORAD) who were diagnosed after their 65th birthday (ensuring comprehensive drug coverage) between 2000 and 2013. Patients are included in ORAD if they received 3 physician billing RA diagnosis codes (with at least one provided by a MSK specialist) over 2 yrs OR at least 1 hospital RA diagnosis code. All patients were followed from cohort entry (when all case definition criteria were met) until death, out-migration, or end of study period (Dec 2013). Two multivariable Cox regression models were performed to estimate hazard ratios (HRs) for each outcome (all-cause and CVD mortality, separately), exploring the effects of both baseline/early treatment (within the year preceding index date) and time-varying medication exposures over the entire duration of follow-up (for methotrexate, other DMARDs, anti-TNFs, COXIBS, NSAIDs, glucocorticosteroids, statins, antihypertensives), baseline comorbidities (within 3 yrs prior to index date), time-varying development of extra-articular manifestations (as proxy for disease severity), healthcare use, and demographics (age, sex, rurality, SES).

**Results:** 28,172 incident RA patients were followed for 141,072 person years. During follow-up, 8,848 (31%) patients died with 1,419 (5%) deaths due to CVD, corresponding to an all-cause rate of 62.7 deaths (95% CI 61.4,64.0), and 10.1 deaths due to CVD (95% CI 9.5,10.6) per 1,000 patient-years, respectively. In our multivariable analysis focused on all-cause mortality, early treatment with methotrexate [HR 0.90 (95% CI 0.85,0.96)] and other DMARDs [HR 0.92 (95% CI 0.87,0.97)] were associated with a lower mortality risk. For CVD mortality,

early treatment with methotrexate was associated with lower risk estimates [HR 0.71 (95% CI 0.60,0.83)], which was not clearly seen with other DMARDs [HR 0.94 (95% CI 0.82, 1.08)]. Use of COX-II inhibitors and NSAIDs at baseline were associated with lower HR for all-cause and CVD mortality risk, though we were unable to detect clear associations with greater use during follow-up. Greater cumulative exposure to glucocorticosteroids, comorbidities, and extra-articular manifestations of RA were associated with increasing risk of all-cause and CVD mortality.

**Conclusions:** Patients with early exposure to methotrexate had a lower risk of all-cause and CVD mortality. Our findings support the hypothesis that early treatment, by reducing inflammation, may help improve survival in RA. However, residual confounding cannot be ruled out.

**References:**

[1] Widdifield J, et al. Risk of Vascular Mortality in Seniors with New-Onset Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheumatol* 2016; 68 (suppl 10).

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#### FRI0685 THE PRESENCE OF RHEUMATOID FACTOR IS ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER BONE MASS IN KOREAN HEALTH SCREENING MALE SUBJECTS WITHOUT CLINICALLY APPARENT ARTHRITIS

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**Background:** Close relationship between the immune and skeletal systems has been recognized through the bone loss in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Rheumatoid factor (RF) is present in approximately 70–80% of RA patients, which is an autoantibody directed against the Fc component of IgG and associated with osteoporosis and reduced bone mineral density (BMD) in RA. RF is also found nonspecifically in chronic inflammatory condition such as sarcoidosis, hepatitis B or C, and tuberculosis. However, the influence of RF to bone loss is scarcely known in subjects without any specific medical problem.

**Objectives:** This cross-sectional study aimed to investigate the association between the presence of RF and BMD in Korean healthy male subjects without any history of joint disease.

**Methods:** Of the 84,344 males who had undergone a comprehensive health checkup program in 2012, 1,390 healthy subjects were recruited, whose BMD and RF results were available. Subjects with history of diabetes, kidney disease, thyroid disease, and malignancy, and taking medicine regarding these diseases, osteoporosis, and arthritis were excluded based on self-reported questionnaire. The RF titer  $\geq 20$  IU/ml was considered positive. BMD was categorized into 3 groups based on T-score; normal (T-score  $\geq -1.0$ ), osteopenia ( $-1.0 > T\text{-score} > -2.5$ ) and osteoporosis (T-score  $\leq -2.5$ ). The association between the presence of RF and BMD was assessed by multiple linear regression analysis.

**Results:** Of 1,390 males, the mean age was 52.8 $\pm$ 10.9 years (range, 22 – 83) and RF was positive in 64 subjects (4.6%). Demographics including smoking history, alcohol consumption, the frequency of vigorous exercise and body mass index (BMI), and laboratory data were not different between RF-positive and –negative subjects except hepatitis B surface antigen, which was more frequently seen in RF-positive subjects (15.6% vs. 4.3%,  $p = 0.001$ ). Low bone mass (osteopenia and osteoporosis) of lumbar spine was more prevalent in subjects aged 50 or more compared with those younger than 50 years (28.0% vs. 10.7%,  $p < 0.001$ ) while no differences of femur neck and total hip. RF-positive subjects had significantly lower BMD compared to RF-negative subjects in lumbar spine (1.10 $\pm$ 0.18 g/cm<sup>2</sup> vs. 1.17 $\pm$ 0.16 g/cm<sup>2</sup>,  $p = 0.002$ ) but neither in femur neck nor total hip. In subjects with higher titer RF ( $\geq 40$  IU/ml), the mean BMD of lumbar spine was significantly decreased than those with lower titer RF (one-way ANOVA,  $F(3, 1190) = 3.527$ ,  $p = 0.015$ ). After adjusting for multiple confounders such as age, BMI, glomerular filtration rate, serum concentration of calcium, phosphorus, and uric acid, and lifestyle factors (drinking, smoking, and physical exercise), RF positivity was negatively associated with BMD at lumbar spine ( $B = -0.055$  and  $SE = 0.027$ ,  $p = 0.039$ ).

**Conclusions:** Our results provide epidemiological evidence that the presence of RF could have an unfavorable impact on bone density in apparently healthy male subjects. Additional studies to elucidate the osteoimmunological mechanism of RF are warranted.

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