the western world. Treatment of low back pain is unsatisfactory for many reasons, not least that an estimated 85% of patients presenting with back pain will not receive an adequate diagnosis. Optimum management relies upon a multimodal approach, where analgesia facilitates active rehabilitation. Recent primary care guidelines recommend that paracetamol should be used initially for treating joint pain, followed by the prescription of non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs).² However, the significant morbidity, mortality³ and pharmacoeconomic implications⁴ associated with long term NSAID prescription, makes this an appropriate time to consider other therapies. Strong opioids have been shown to offer efficacy, safety and tolerability to patients with chronic non-cancer pain.⁵ Furthermore, strong opioids including TTS Fentanyl, have been shown to be effective and well tolerated specifically in patients with low back pain, although in small numbers.^{6,7}

Objectives In a pragmatic, clinical based trial, approximately 600 strong-opioid naïve patients were enrolled in an international (16 European countries), randomised, open-label, parallel, multi-centre (110 investigational centres), 13-month study. The objective of the study was to compare pain relief and the adverse event profile, achieved by TTS Fentanyl and sustained release morphine for chronic low back pain in strong opioid naïve patients. Outcome measures from the study included safety, QOL and outcome (the number of working days lost to chronic back pain) on TTS Fentanyl or sustained release morphine therapy.

Methods Patients were prescribed the lowest dose TTS Fentanyl patch (25 µg/h) every 72 h, with incremental titration of 25 µg/h to achieve adequate pain control. Patients randomised to sustained release morphine started on 30 mg sustained release morphine 12-hourly, titrated up in 30–50% increments after a minimum of 12 h to achieve adequate pain control. Safety assessments were conducted throughout the study.

Results The results of the interim analysis detailing patient demographics, disposition, and characteristics of the chronic pain, will be presented in the poster.

Conclusion

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FRI0243 SAPHO SYNDROME IN HUNGARY

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Background SAPHO syndrome is an abbreviation according to the suggestion of Chamot (1990) from the words Synovitis, Acne, Pustulosis, Hyperostosis and Osteitis. There are more than 50 synonyms in the first described SAPHO syndrome by Chamot, too. The usage of SAPHO syndrome diagnosis became widespread only in the latest years.

Objectives Authors studied the Hungarian publications examining the appearance and extending of SAPHO syndrome in 1998. Chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis (CRMO) diagnosis is

used also nowadays in the paediatric cases corresponding to SAPHO syndrome. Authors give a review of the SAPHO syndrome cases published and/or presented in Hungary.

Methods There were 8 cases as acne arthritis, 1 case as SNSA, 5 cases as SAPHO syndrome published, 31 cases as sternoclavicular involvement in psoriatic arthritis, 3 CRMO cases, 1 SAPHO syndrome presented in Hungarian Congresses, together 49 case reports.

Results The concomitant skin lesions were: acne conglobata, fulminans or psoriasis vulgaris. Mean age: 33,3 (12–60). Male: female ratio was: 29/20. Almost all the patients had peripheral arthritis, most of them had sacroiliitis and/or SCC arthritis.

Conclusion

OP0077 ULTRASOUND IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF DISC HERNIATION

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Background One major advantage of ultrasound (US) is that it can be performed bedside by the clinician. In an attempt to implement US in the diagnosis of disc herniation some authors have previously described sensitivities and specificities approximating those of the conventional methods. Within the last decade, however, there have only been sparse reports on this subject. So far, the role of US in this area is unclear.

Objectives To evaluate in a blinded fashion US in the diagnosis of disc herniations at the three lower lumbar levels performed by an experienced specialist.

Methods 18 males and 19 females with a mean age of 39.7 years (SD 10.5 years) and no previous back surgery were included due to suspected disc herniation. The US was performed transabdominally with the patient in the supine position. An Acuson Sequoia with a 4 MHz vector transducer was used. MRI or CT was obtained at the three lower lumbar levels. The two modalities (US vs. CT/MRI) were performed and evaluated blinded to each other. The endpoints were existence of herniation or protrusion in contrast to normal findings and the corresponding level of the abnormal finding.

Abstract OP0077 Table 1

	US L3/4 Abnormal	US L3/4 Normal	US L4/5 Abnormal	US L4/5 Normal	US L5/S1 Abnormal	US L5/S1 Normal
CT/MRI, abnormal	2	3	9	13	1	17
CT/MRI, normal	6	19	1	10	4	12

The US findings compared with the corresponding CT/MRI findings.

Results A total of 97 disc levels were visualised by US. Fourteen levels were not visualised. There were 45 disc abnormalities (herniations or protrusions) found by CT/MRI, and of those 12 (26.7%) were also found by US. Fifty two discs were found to be normal by CT or MRI, but of those 11 (21.2%) were suspected to be abnormal by US. A total agreement between US and CT/MRI was found in 53/97 (54.6%) of the cases. The sensitivity of US was 12/45 (26.7%) and the specificity 12/23 (52.2%). The false positive rate was 47.8% and the false negative rate 44.6%. The over all kappa value was 0.18. The findings