(NGAS) may be strived for by using serologic responses in anti-strepto-lysin-O (ASO) and anti-deoxyribonuclease-B (antiDNase-B). Previous studies have shown: lower ASO/antiDNase-B ratio 1.45 for NGAS infection.

Objectives

Methods

Study design Prospective observational inception cohort study of consecutive PSRA patients, presenting to our Dept of Rheumatology from April 1998 until Dec 2000. Alternative causes of arthritis were excluded.

Results 20 female, 15 male PSRA patients were included; 1 male was excluded after half a year as he developed a RF positive erosive RA. The 24 remaining patients did not meet Jones' criteria. A sore throat was recalled by 19/24 = 79%. Throat culture was positive in 7/24 = 29%: GAS in 4, GGS in 2, and GCS in 1 patient. Patients were subgrouped according to ASO/antiDNase-B ratio. At least a 1-yr-period of monthly penicillin prophylaxis was advised to patients in whom GAS was the presumed causative microbe. So far follow-up was uneventful with respect to carditis/chorea: complication rate <1/427 mos. In 1 patient from the NGAS group, a fulminant arthritis with pneumonitis recurred 6 mos after a 2-yr-period of penicillin prophylaxis: arthritis recurrency rate 1/304 NGAS-patient mos.

Abstract OP0105 Table 1

	Table: means SEM, unless stated otherwise. (*p < 0.05 in Chi-square test)	Presumed NGAS
	Presumed GAS	
Female	8:5	12:9
Age (SD)	34(11)	37(19)
ESR	46(9)	39(8)
ASO	985(140)	1090(130)
ASO/antiDNase-B-ratio	0.40 (0.05)	12.2 (3.8)
Polyarthritis	38%	5%
Recovery	15%	29%
Recovery > 6 mos	31%	14%

Conclusion Serologic analysis in PSRA gives additive information. A higher ASO/anti-Dnase-B ratio suggests primary NGAS infection, is associated with a significantly less polyarticular presentation of arthritis, and with a significantly more rapid recovery. The exact role for penicillin prophylaxis warrants further investigation.

OP0107 HUMAN PARVOVIRUS B19 INFECTION ASSOCIATED ARTHRITIS: CLINICAL FINDINGS

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Background

Objectives Description of clinical findings and evolution in a cohort of patients with recent human parvovirus B19(PB19) infection and arthritis.

Methods 26 patients with arthritis and recent PB19 infection (high titers of anti-PB19 Ig M antibodies) were studied. Clinical (prodromal symptoms, arthritis pattern, extra-articular features

and evolution) and analytical (blood count, Erythrocyte sedimentation rate, C-reactive protein, antinuclear antibodies, anti-DNA antibodies, anti-cardiolipin antibodies, C3/C4 levels and urine abnormalities) data were collected. SLE(ACR,1982), RA (ARA,1987), and Fibromyalgia (Wolfe,1995) criteria were reviewed in each case.

Results Mean age of the 26 patients (23 female, 3 male) was 38.6 years. Three patients (11.5%) fulfilled ≥ 4 ACR criteria for SLE, and four patients (15.4%) had an SLE-like syndrome. Joint symptoms always manifested as an abrupt-onset arthritis; mainly as a polyarthritis (92.3%) with an additive (76.9%), symmetric (84.6%) pattern. Most of the patients became symptom-free in a period not longer than less than six months (< 8 weeks: 76.9%; 8–24 weeks: 7.6%), and only 4 patients had a chronic course (SLE-like:2 patients; SLE: 1 patient; fibromyalgia: 1 patient).

Abstract OP0107 Table 1

	SLE	SLE-like
Photosensitivity	2	0
Lymphopenia/anaemia	3	4
Antinuclear antibodies (ANA)	2	2
Pleural effusion	1	0
Anti-cardiolipin antibodies	2	2
Chronicity	1	2

Conclusion Most of the patients with a recent PB19 infection show a self-limited symmetric additive polyarthritis. Some of this patients may fulfil SLE, SLE-like or fibromyalgia criteria. This virus could act as a trigger in the etiopathogenesis of this diseases.

SAT0217 EXPERIMENTAL ARTHRITIS IN LEWIS RATS INDUCED BY REPEATED INJECTIONS OF YERSINIA ENTEROCOLITICA O:8 IN DIFFERENT DOSES

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Background The incidence of experimental arthritis induced by *Yersinia enterocolitica* O:8 (YeO8) in animals of different species and strains varies greatly, depending on the the susceptibility of the strain and the dose.^{1,2} The susceptibility is easily affected by many factors. To increase the incidence of arthritis we used repeated injections of YeO8.

Objectives To evaluate the ability to cause reactive arthritis (ReA) in Lewis rats by repeated i.v. injections of various doses of live YeO8.

Methods 3 experiments were performed on 30 male Lewis rats. Bacterial culture of virulent YeO8 for each experiment were prepared according to usual methods and injected into the tail veins of rats in doses 4×10^7 ? 6×10^9 . The limbs of animals were examined 5 times/week, the severity of joint swelling was assessed by score from 0 to 4. At the end of experiment rats were decapitated and pathomorphological examination of joints and YeO8 detection in the internal organs were performed.

Results In the first experiment 10 male rats were i.v. injected with YeO8 in a dose 4×10^7 , but no signs of ReA were