CORRELATION BETWEEN PHYSICIANS AND PATIENTS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF DISEASE ACTIVITY IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

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Background: In the assessment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), laboratory data and clinical findings have been more focused than patient-reported outcomes which reflect quality of life. Previous studies showed discrepancy between patients and physicians in assessments of disease activity in SLE.1 The Systemic Lupus Activity Questionnaire (SLAQ), a lupus disease activity index which consisted of only patient-reported outcomes, and SLE Disease Activity Index 2000 (SLEDAI-2K) were poorly correlated.2

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the correlation between SLAQ and SLEDAI-2K scores in those who had discordance between patients’ VAS and physicians’ VAS or not.

Methods: Both SLEDAI-2K and SLAQ were routinely measured at every outpatient visit in all SLE patients. We analysed the data between September 17, 2013 and December 31, 2017. Patients were divided into concordance group (patients’ VAS-physicians’ VAS) <25 or discordance group (patients’ VAS-physicians’ VAS) ≥25.3 We measured the correlation between SLAQ score vs SLEDAI-2K or SLEDAI-2K-nolab scores by Spearman’s correlation in the concordance group and the discordance group. Comparison between the concordance group and the discordance group were performed using chi-squared test for categorical variables and Student t-test, Welch’s t-test or Mann-Whitney U test for continuous variables.

Results: Total 130 patients were analysed; 91% of female, a mean age (SD) of 44.1 ± 14.7 years, steroid use of 91%, immunosuppressant use of 54%, HCO use of 70%, Median SLAQ, SLEDAI-2K and SLEDAI-2K-nolab scores were 4 [IQR: 2–7], 4 [IQR: 2–4] and 0 [IQR: 0–2], respectively. Among them, 86 (66%) were classified as the discordance group. The SLAQ scores were weakly correlated with the SLEDAI-2K scores (r = 0.228, p = 0.009), and with SLEDAI-2K-nolab scores (r = 0.352, p < 0.001). In the concordance group, the SLAQ scores correlated with SLEDAI-2K scores (r = 0.327, p < 0.002) and SLEDAI-2K-nolab scores (r = 0.523, p < 0.001). The pain VAS and RAPID3 in the discordance group were significantly higher than those in the concordance group (30.77 ± ±25.64 vs. 10.71 ± 14.31, p < 0.001, 8.11 ± 5.87 vs. 2.97 ± 3.23, p < 0.001, respectively). In the discordance group, the SLAQ scores were not correlated with SLEDAI-2K scores (r = –0.029, p = 0.849) and with SLEDAI-2K-nolab scores (r = –0.083, p = 0.957).

Conclusions: The correlation between SLAQ vs SLEDAI-2K or SLEDAI-2K-nolab scores was examined in the concordance group. Musculoskeletal pain may be associated with the discordance between patients’ and physicians’ assessment.

REFERENCES:

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GLUCOCORTICOID INTAKE, HYPERGLYCEMIA AND OSTEOPOROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

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Background: Autoimmune diseases (AID) are often treated with glucocorticoids. Glucocorticoids have a number of substantial side effects in human body, including hyperglycemia and osteoporosis.

Objectives: Our study was to investigate the use of glucocorticoid in patients with autoimmune diseases and its negative influence on blood glucose and osteoporosis in the patients who receiving glucocorticoid treatment.

Methods: Patients with autoimmune diseases that includes physician-based assessments were enrolled from July to December 2017 in rheumatology department of the Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University. Demographic information, family history, past medical history, and clinical information were collected by two rheumatologists, including years of having glucocorticoid for treatment, largest dose of methylprednisolone, current dose of glucocorticoid, Blood glucose, glycosylated haemoglobin, and bone mineral density was required. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 21 was used for all data management and analysis.

Results: Of all the 75 patients, 15 (20%) were male patients. 14.7% had primary education, while 26.6% received education in university. Numbers of the patients were stated as follows. Lupus, 29; rheumatoid arthritis, 4; Sjögren’s syndrome, 10; systemic sclerosis, 10; myositis, 4; mixed connective tissue disease, 1; autoimmune hepatitis, 1; vasculitis, 5; other diseases, 11. Mean age was 40.29±14.64 years. Mean disease duration was 4.74±6.62 years. 3 (4%) patients had family history of diabetes, 3 (4%) patients had past medical history of diabetes. Mean duration of taking glucocorticoids was 3.30±4.40 years. 13 (17.3%) of the patients underwent high dose of glucocorticoid intravenous pulse (120 mg to 1000 mg of methylprednisolone). Current dose of glucocorticoids was 5.30±3.96 tablets of methylprednisolone. Mean blood glucose was 4.61±0.92 mmol/L. Mean glycosylated haemoglobin was 5.46±0.84. 2 patients were found to have diabetes in this study. 5 other patients were found to have higher blood sugar than normal range (3.9–6.1 mmol/L, according to our laboratory). 14 (18.7%) of the patients had osteoporosis according to BMD scores. In 17 patients who had receiving glucocorticoids for more than five years, 3 (17.6%) patients were found to have higher...