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AB1093

CAN DMARDS THERAPY MODIFY CLINICAL HISTORY OF OLIGOARTICULAR JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS (JIA)?

E. Bertoldo¹, C. Mansoldo², F. Martinis¹, G. Dallagiocoma¹, D. Biasi¹, M. Rossini¹, S. Pieropan¹. ¹Rheumatology Unit, ²Ophthalmology Unit, AOUI Verona, Verona, Italy

Background: Therapy of oligoarticular JIA is based on intra-articular injections of steroids, methotrexate and biotechnological therapy. ANAs-positive oligoarticular JIA patients with an early onset of disease have a consistent risk to develop uveites.

Objectives: The primary aim of this study is to evaluate longitudinally the effect of non-systemic therapy and of systemic immunomodulating drugs (e.g MTX) on ANAs in JIA patients; secondary occurrence of iridocyclitis was evaluated.

Methods: Monocentric retrospective not randomised study of 40 patients affected by oligoarticular JIA (ILAR classification) with ANA positivity at the baseline (T0, time of diagnosis). Patient of Group 1 received only intra-articular infiltrations or NSAID. Patients of Group 2 were treated with DMARDs (most of them with subcutaneous MTX 15 mg/m2/week) or MTX +biotechnological therapies. The assay for ANAs (I.I.F.) was assessed in all patients at T0, at T1 (12 months) and T2 (24 months). At 24 months was also recorded the occurrence of uveitis during the follow up. Exclusion criteria were the ANAs negativity at T0 and other subgroups of JIA.

Results: Twenty-one patients (52.5%) were treated with non-systemic therapy (Group 1), and nineteen (47.5%) with systemic immunomodulating therapy (Group 2). In Group 2 fifteen subjects were treated with MTX, one with MTX plus cyclosporine, one with only cyclosporine, two with MTX plus biotechnological agent (etanercept and adalimumab). At T1, in Group 1 only one patient out of 20 (4.8%) became ANAs negative versus 42.1% (8/19) of patients in Group 2 (p 0.0033). At T2 the incidence of ANAs positivity did not change in Group 1 (only 1/21 ANAs negative), while 42.1% of patients treated with systemic therapies were ANA negative (p 0.006). Three patients were lost at the follow up. The two patients who received bDMARDs in addition to MTX remained ANAs-positive both in T1 and T2. At the end of follow-up period eight uveitis have occurred, six in ANAs positive patients of Group 1 (6/21, 28.5%) and two in ANA negatives patients in Group 2 (2/19, 10.5%).

Conclusions: ANAs-positive patients treated with methotrexate seems to have higher possibility to become ANAs-negative versus patients treated with non-systemic immunomodulating therapy. It's known that MTX might prevent onset of uveitis in JIA, as shown in our results. Demonstrating a negativization of antinuclear antibodies using MTX therapy could help to add a role of this drug in the disease history of the oligoarthritis.

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AB1094

ACUTE RHEUMATIC FEVER: NEW ASPECTS OF AN OLD DISEASE

F. Martinis¹, S. Pieropan¹, G. Dallagiocoma¹, E. Bertoldo¹, S. Picassi², D. Biasi¹, M. Rossini¹, M.A. Prioli³. ¹Rheumatology, ²Paediatrics, ³Cardiology, AOUI VERONA, Verona, Italy

Background: Acute rheumatic fever is a nonsuppurative sequela that occurs two to four weeks following group A beta-hemolytic Streptococcus (GABHS) pharyngitis. Despite its decline in incidence in Europe, rheumatic fever still represents a serious healthcare concern. The most common manifestations are arthritis and carditis, followed by chorea, erythema marginatum, and subcutaneous nodules. The diagnosis of ARF is clinical and requires satisfaction of revised Jones criteria as well as evidence of a recent streptococcal infection.

Objectives: Aim of this study was to highlight new emerging features of disease clinical presentation.

Methods: Data regarding patients who fulfilled the Revised Jones Criteria for acute rheumatic fever were retrospectively collected from January 1996 and July 2017. The following clinical and demographic data were obtained: patient sex, birth date, age at presentation, clinical manifestations, evolution of cardiac involvement after therapy.

Results: 35 patients (19 males, 16 females) were included. The mean age at diagnosis 7.9±4 years (range 2–17). Carditis was the most frequent manifestation, occurring in 31 patients (89%). Other common symptoms were fever (91%), arthritis (43%) or arthralgias (54%) and chorea (20%). In 6 out of 7 patients chorea occurred together with carditis. Cardiac auscultation revealed new pathologic

murmurs only in 49% of cases. Echocardiography detected cardiac involvement in the absence of auscultatory findings (subclinical carditis) in 11 patients at the time of diagnosis. In 3 cases ultrasound examination became positive within 4 weeks. Throat cultures were negative in 37% of cases. Anti-streptolysin O (ASO) and anti-desoxyribonuclease B (ADB) antibodies titers did not bear correlation with the severity of cardiac involvement.

Conclusions: In our casistic, carditis was the most common and worrisome manifestation of ARF. Detection of cardiac involvement is still challenging and echocardiography testing should be performed even in the absence of abnormal auscultation findings. If the initial ultrasound is negative but clinical suspicion remains high, US investigation should be repeated, given that rheumatic carditis can evolve over weeks to months. Early detection and treatment of manifestations improves outcome as in all the cases of this series.

Streptococcal serology is most helpful in the diagnosis of ARF because culture or detection of the organism is usually no longer possible by the time ARF presents. The severity of clinical manifestations, particularly of carditis, does not correlate strictly with ASO and ADB titer.

Sydenham chorea, which usually has a longer latent period (up to 6 months), tends to occur earlier in the disease course, presenting in the acute phase in this series.

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AB1095

LONG-TERM IMPACT OF JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF ADULT PATIENTS IN GREECE

G.C. Paskalis¹, D. Dimopoulou², M. Trachana³, C.C. Theocharidou¹, P. Pratsidou-Gertsis³, T. Oikonomou², T. Dimitroulas², A. Garyfallos². ¹Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece; ²4th Department of Internal Medicine; ³1st Department of Pediatrics, Pediatric Immunology and Rheumatology Referral Centre, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

Background: Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) is the most common rheumatic disease in childhood and affects negatively both physical and psychosocial functioning.

Objectives: To explore the long-term impact of JIA on quality of life of adult patients in Northern Greece.

Methods: Adult patients with a definite diagnosis of JIA were assessed by the SF-12v2 questionnaire in the outpatient transition (from Paediatric to adult Rheumatology) clinic of Hippokratio Hospital of Thessaloniki. SF-12 questionnaire is a quality of life assessment tool and consists of a Physical Component Summary (PCS) and a Mental Component Summary (MCS). PCS and MCS of the patient group were compared to an age-matched control group, using *t-test* or *Mann-Whitney U test*, as appropriate. Moreover, percentages of patients and controls who were severely affected (<45 points in PCS or MCS) were compared, using *Chi-squared test*. Finally, correlation between the two summary components of SF-12 of patients was measured, using *Spearman's rho*. Statistical analysis was done using SPSS software. Level of statistical significance is $p < 0.05$.

Results: A total of 50 patients and 135 controls were enrolled in the study. The median (IQR) patient age was 32¹⁰ years and disease duration was 24^{9.5} years. PCS scores of patients group were statistically significantly lower compared to control group ($p=0.021$) and more patients than controls scored low values (<45) in PCS (22% versus 6.7%, odds ratio, 4.0 [95% CI, 1.5, 10.2]; $p=0.007$). MCS scores of patients were slightly better than scores of controls (mean difference, 3.67 [95% CI, 0.44, 6.90]; $p=0.026$), but the severely affected were similar in both groups (odds ratio, 0.6 [95% CI, 0.3, 1.2]; $p=0.174$). No correlation between PCS and MCS was found ($p=0.48$).

Conclusions: There is an apparent impact of JIA on many patients' quality of life, specifically in terms of their physical health, that persists for many years after disease onset, which is in line with studies from other countries. This could be related to disease severity, disease subtype and duration, socioeconomic status and availability of treatment options. Interestingly, JIA wasn't found to affect the patients' mental health. A more specific psychometric test would be appropriate for in-depth analysis and confirmation of this result. Study design did not allow subgroup analysis according to JIA subtype, disease severity or duration, highlighting the need for long-term outcome studies focusing on the risk factors which may be involved.