PATIENT FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO AND SHARED DECISION MAKING IN STARTING/SWITCHING BIOLOGICS SPONDYLOARTHROSIS

F. Beckers, Y. van Eijk – Hustings, A. Boenen, A. van Tubergen. Rheumatology, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, Netherlands

Background: Biologics are effective for treating symptoms in patients (pts) with active spondyloarthritis (SpA) and a number of drugs are available with different working mechanisms, and mode and interval of administration. It is increasingly advocated to involve pts in treatment decision making. When involving SpA pts in shared decision making on start/switching of a biological, information on effectiveness on disease activity, fatigue, intolerance to prior medication, and ineffectiveness of prior medication is provided, in addition to modes of administration and interval. However, when more agents became available, decision for a specific biological was often made by the rheumatologist without discussing treatment options.

Methods: Pts with SpA were recruited from the rheumatology department, Maastricht University Medical Centre. In semi-structured focus group interviews pts were asked to elaborate on when and why biologics were started and switched and if they were involved in the treatment decision. A decision aid for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) biologics was shown and pts were asked if they considered a similar decision aid for SpA as valuable.

Interviews were audiotaped, transcribed and analysed in NVIVO11 software.

Results: In total, 14 pts with SpA participated in 4 focus group interviews. Three pts were diagnosed with axial SpA, 5 pts with peripheral SpA and 6 pts were diagnosed with axial and peripheral SpA, with or without concomitant extra-articular manifestations. Mean age was 62 years (range 41–77 years), 10 were female (62.5%). Average time since diagnosis was 28 yrs. Pts started on average 7.3 years (range 1–14 years) ago with their first biological. Six pts used 1 biological, 5 pts had switched once or twice, and 3 pts switched more than 3 times. Factors contributing to starting a first biological were disease activity, fatigue, intolerance to prior medication, and ineffectiveness of prior medication. Two pts were included in a biological trial. Factors contributing to switching were adverse effects and ineffectiveness of prior biological.

Most pts were not involved in decision making when biologics were started or could not remember this. Some pts mentioned that only one or limited options were available at the time of start, and that the decision to start was made by the rheumatologist. However, also when more agents became available, decision for a specific biological was often made by the rheumatologist without discussing treatment options.

Pts underlined the importance of how care providers offer a treatment decision. When the decision was offered as a suggestion, “Shall we do...”, it was experienced more pleasurable then when the decision was offered as a command, “Let’s do...”.

All pts expressed their wish to develop a decision aid in which clear information about each biological is provided on mode of administration, interval, and effect on different SpA features. One pt explicitly stated that he did not want to be actively involved in decision making, but preferred that the care provider decides.

Conclusions: When involving SpA pts in shared decision making on start/switching of a biological, information on effectiveness on disease activity, fatigue, adverse events as well as expected duration of effectiveness should be provided, in addition to modes of administration and interval of each agent. A decision aid can support pts in this.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared.


COMPARISON OF BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL STATUS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND FIBROMYALGIA PATIENTS

F.B. Ofla1, M. Zahidinova1, G. Ann1, N.B. Karaca1, S. Apra Bilgen2, E. Ünal1.

1Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Hacettepe University Faculty of Health Sciences; 2Department of Internal Medicine-Rheumatology, Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Rheumatic diseases have biopsychosocial effects on individuals. This effect includes the combination of anxiety, depression, and participation in daily living activities. It can be thought that individuals can be affected from different diseases in different ways.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to compare the biopsychosocial status of patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Fibromyalgia (FMS), and the needs of pts starting biologics.

Methods: Individuals diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Fibromyalgia (FMS) who applied to the Rheumatology Department of the Medical Faculty of Hacettepe University were included in the study. After the demographic characteristics of the individuals were recorded; daily living activities were assessed with the Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ), quality of life with Short Form 36 (SF-36) scale, anxiety and depression levels with Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) and disease related biopsychosocial status with the Cognitive Exercise Therapy Approach Scale (BETY) which is a newly developed scale in rheumatic patients (the authors request that the abbreviation stay as BETY as the original in Turkish).

Results: 120 RA and 99 FMS patients were included in the study. The scores of individuals on scales are shown in Table 1. When analysed in terms of differences according to RA and FMS, the anxiety and depression scores of the HADS scale and the SF-36 quality of life scale of the individuals were found to differ between the Physical Functioning, Social Functioning, General Mental Health, Role Limitations Due to Emotional Problems, Vitality Energy or Fatigue and General Health Perception subscales.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared.


BURDEN AMONG CAREGIVERS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS – A PILOT STUDY

D. Butrago-Garcia1, I. Mendez1, E. Rodriguez2, L. Villareal3, P. Santos-Moreno3.

1Health services, Biomab, Center For Rheumatoid Arthritis, Bogota; 2Epidemiology, SIELS; 3Rheumatology, Biomab, Center For Rheumatoid Arthritis, Bogota, Bogota, Colombia

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic, inflammatory disease of the joints affecting more than 1% of global population, it is a long term condition that causes pain and disability. Evidence had shown that...
most of the patients are moderately disabled, and about 10% of the patients suffered from severe disability which brings the necessity of a caregiver to become the patient’s companion due to its chronic disease. The caregiving role can have an impact in the psychological and physical spheres of the caregiver’s life.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to explore demographic characteristics and caregiver burden within the Zarit Scale.

Methods: We conducted a cross sectional study in a meeting where caregivers in a rheumatoid arthritis specialisation setting. We collected sociodemographic information, and applied the Zarit caregiver burden interview (ZBI) adapted to Spanish. The ZBI includes 22 questions which has 5 responses from 0 (never) to 4 (nearly always), where scores lower than 47 indicated little to no burden, 47 to 55 low burden and >55 intense burden. We calculated means, and standard deviations for continuous variables and categorical variables were presented as rates. We categorised age of caregivers and compared to it to ZBI score, we used X² to perform bivariate analysis.

Results: 115 caregivers were included in the study, 63% were female and 37% were male. Mean age was 49±18 and 35% were single. Regarding educational level 44% had college degree, most of caregivers 30% had a full time job, and also 45% had other family members as their responsibility. See table 1. Zarit mean score was 44±14, additionally 71% had a score lower than 47. See table 1. Regarding age groups 35% of patients were older than 60 years and 15% of them were considered with intense burden disease, there was no statistical association between age and disease burden, see table 2.

Abstract AB1451HPR – Table 1. Zart score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>15-39 years</th>
<th>40-60 years</th>
<th>Older than 60 years</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>n=36</td>
<td>n=38</td>
<td>n=41</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No burden</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low burden</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intense burden</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.436</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions: Although a high proportion of caregivers reported to have not burden, it is important to develop strategies and activities in order to attend the necessities of the caregivers in order to reduce the overload of responsibilities among them. Also further research is needed in order to identify the risk factors or protector factors that can prevent disease burden in caregivers.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interest: None declared


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ARE DMARD THERAPIES EFFECTIVE ON QUALITY OF LIFE, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION LEVELS IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS?


1Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences, Hacettepe University; 2Department of Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease with persistent joint inflammation manifesting as joint pain, stiffness, and swelling. Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) should be aimed at achieving the lowest possible disease activity. Conventional DMARDs (eg. methotrexate [MTX], hydroxychloroquine, and sulfasalazine) are still widely used in newly diagnosed RA patients. On the other hand, the rate of biologic therapy use in clinical practice is rising as more agents become available in spite of efficacy of these treatments is modestly comparable. Depression is a common under-recognised comorbidity in patients with RA accompanying with substantial disability, reduced quality of life.

Table 1. Assessment values and comparison statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease Type</th>
<th>Pain</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oligoarthritis (n=51)</td>
<td>Polyarthritis (n=52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.88±3.81</td>
<td>3.10±0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAQ Total</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAQ (General VAS)</td>
<td>2.49±2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function (range 0–30)</td>
<td>4.72±4.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial (range 0–30)</td>
<td>23.5±6.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Function; Psychosocial; Functional and Psychosocial subscales of Ünal’s scale.

Conclusions: We conclude that pain has a greater effect on functional, psychosocial and overall disease assessment in children with JIA when compared to the disease type. Thus, it must be taken into consideration that child’s ability to cope with pain should be improved.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interest: None declared