Upcoming blood and urine analysis showed increased serum creatinine with proteinuria 1 g/day and hematuria. Following interdisciplinary consultation immunologic investigations were performed showing elevated titres of ANA, anti-dsDNA and decreased complement levels. The patient was diagnosed with SLE with shrinking lung and active renal involvement and was referred to Rheumatology Unit where treatment was initiated with prednisone 0.5 mg/kg/day and mycophenolate mofetil 2 g/day. Respiratory symptoms as well as pulmonary function tests improved within some days after initiation of steroid treatment.

After 12 months the patient displayed still abnormally restrictive respiratory pattern at pulmonary function tests, despite clinical improvement. She was also displaying proteinuria 0.8 g/day with active urinary sediment and rising anti-dsDNA antibodies. Thus, she underwent Rituximab 1 g 2 weeks apart with subsequent improvement of both renal and respiratory signs and symptoms. Improvement remained stable at 2 years.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

FRIDAY, 15 JUNE 2018
Joint EULAR – ESSR session on: The role of MR imaging in rheumatic diseases and its clinical implications

SP0103
INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF MR IMAGING IN RA
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In clinical practice, rheumatologists most frequently use imaging techniques to explore bone and soft-tissue involvement in RA. MRI is the best noninvasive, observer-independent imaging modality technique that has advantages over clinical examination and conventional radiographs for assessing joint damage and soft tissue inflammation, which are common features even in the earliest stages of RA. MRI provides multiplanar images with a high degree of resolution without ionising radiation. Based on these characteristics, MRI identifies early signs of arthritis where other imaging modalities failed. Main indications for MRI in RA consequently are to determine joint involvement, differential diagnosis and early diagnosis of inflammation, such as synovial changes, changes in tendon sheaths and bursae, as well as bone marrow oedema (BME), not detected by clinical examination, BME even also not by ultrasound. The presence of BME has added benefits to modern diagnostic criteria, and anti-citrullinated peptide antibody positive patients have demonstrated higher osteitis scores. Additionally, MRI helps to assess and define prognosis and outcome, because synovitis and BME are risk factors for the progression of structural changes. Growing data on the validity of MRI in predicting and assessment of treatment response are available as well. Recent evidence has demonstrated that MRI inflammatory parameters are frequent findings in RA with clinical remission and low disease activity states, which has impact on treatment changes. MRI helps to identify at-risk individuals with arthritis without clinical arthritis, furthermore these patients with defined RA and high risk for disease progression leading to therapy escalation and also may limit unnecessary treatment with potentially expensive biologic drugs. Studies that directly assess how MRI use in clinical care might even influence decision making, quality of care and cost effective delivery of that care. Clinical studies answering these questions of regular use of MRI are warranted.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

SP0104
INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS
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Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects the sacroiliac joints and the spine. Whereas early disease is characterised by inflammation, severe structural damage may occur later in the disease course. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) can detect inflammatory lesions (bone marrow oedema (BME)/osteitis), and structural lesions (erosions, bone spurs, ankylosing and fat metaplasia).

In patients suspected for axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) in clinical practice, MRI has a key role for early diagnosis of axial SpA, since MRI is by far the best available method for early detection of inflammation in the spine and sacroiliac joints. MRI is also more sensitive and accurate for assessment of structural sacroiliac changes than conventional radiography. Differential diagnoses, including anatomical variations, degenerative disease, osteitis condensans illi, infections and others, should of course always be considered.

In patients with diagnosed axial SpA, MRI is the method of choice for sensitive objective monitoring of axial inflammation, and also peripheral inflammation and damage can be assessed. Whole-body MRI is a promising method, which may become important for simultaneous assessment of axial and peripheral disease manifestations in one examination. Furthermore, MRI can provide information which may help predict the response to therapy and the risk of subsequent progression of structural damage.