15-YEAR TRENDS AND CORRELATES OF SCHOOL SPORTS ATTENDANCE AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH JIA ENROLLED IN THE GERMAN NATIONAL PAEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGIC DATABASE

Background: Besides leisure-based physical activities (PA), the school-setting is described as one of the most effective areas for providing opportunities for PA, collectively reaching school-aged children vulnerable to sedentary behaviours.

In this context, regular participation in school sports can help children and adolescents achieve a part of the recommended amount of daily physical activity and help gain the knowledge and attitudes they need to engage in lifelong active lifestyle.

Objectives: Since adolescents with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) are less involved in physical and social activities compared to their healthy peers, the objectives were as follows: 1) to describe the extent to which school sports attendance among children with JIA changed over time, and 2) to determine correlates associated with exemption from school sports.

Methods: Data of school-aged children and adolescents with JIA recorded in the National Paediatric Rheumatologic Database (NPRD) in the years 2000 to 2015 were considered for the analyses. Whether school sports participation had changed between 2000 and 2015 was determined using linear mixed models. Data from 2015 were inspected to analyse correlates of school sports absenteeism.

Results: During the observation period, participation rates in school sports were determined in 23,016 patients. The proportion of patients who participated always steadily increased from 31% in 2000 to 65% in 2015 (p<0.001, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.015, 0.020), whereas the exemption rate simultaneously decreased from 44% in 2000 to 16% in 2015 [p<0.009, 95% CI –0.011–0.007]. In 2015, data from 5879 patients (mean age 13.1±3.3 years, disease duration 5.9±4.0 years, persistent oligoarthritis 37%) were available for evaluation. Fully exemption was associated with functional limitations, disease activity and any use of DMARDs, intra-articular glucocorticoid injection or physiotherapy.

Conclusions: School sports attendance among children and adolescents with JIA has increased significantly over the last 15 years. Possible explanations may include improved functional ability, probably due to earlier and more frequent use of DMARDs. Considering the impact of JIA on daily life, the sedentary habits that come with it, and the potentially favourable effect of PA, it is important to promote an active lifestyle in children with JIA. In order to encourage patients to attend more frequently, it will be necessary to provide comprehensive information among teachers, parents and physicians regarding opportunities and risks of school sports.

REFERENCE:

LONG-TERM PHARMACOVIGILANCE OF BIOLOGICS FOR JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS: THE BIKEREGISTRY

Background: Long-term surveillance of biologics drugs is particularly important in paediatric patients (pts) as they are still growing and developing. Moreover, it is important to evaluate the long-term monitoring of biologics in pts with more frequent follow-up exams in order to prevent any potential adverse effects. The study aimed to evaluate the long-term pharmacovigilance of biologics in pts with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) enrolled in the BIKEREGISTRY.

Objectives: To evaluate long-term rates of serious adverse events (AE) and AEs of special interest (AESI) in pts with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)

Methods: Safety data from pts registered in the BIKEREGISTRY were analysed. Rates of 25 AESI were analysed from first dose through 70 days after last dose administration. The reference period was 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017.

Results: A total of 1814 pts with JIA were enrolled in the BIKEREGISTRY, 1522 of whom had data available for analysis (67% female, mean age 12.1 years, mean disease duration 3.0 years, 47% persistant oligoarthritis).

Conclusions: The BIKEREGISTRY is an important tool to monitor the long-term safety of biologics in pts with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, providing valuable information for healthcare professionals and researchers.