Background: Cardiovascular (CV) morbidity and mortality are significantly greater in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) patients than in the general population. Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) is known to be associated with a significant decrease in the incidence of CV events in patients at high CV risk, as we have recently demonstrated in patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, but its effectiveness as primary prophylaxis in RA patients has not yet been addressed.

Objectives: To investigate the role of ASA in reducing the incidence of CV events in an Italian multicentric RA cohort from the GIRRCS (Gruppo Italiano di Ricerca in Reumatologia Clinica e Sperimentale).

Methods: The clinical charts of RA patients consecutively admitted to 4 GIRRCS centres for their 1st visit from November 1st 2000 to December 31st 2015, who, at admission, satisfied 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria for RA and had not experienced any CV event, were analysed. The incidence of CV events during follow-up was recorded at December 2016. Kaplan Meier curve and log-rank test were used to investigate differences in event-free survival. Cox regression analysis served to identify factors associated with CV event occurrence.

Results: Seven hundred and forty-six consecutive RA patients were enrolled and followed up for a median of 5.6 years (range 2.9–8.9 years). The incidence rate of CV events during follow-up was one per 84 person-years (95% CI: 1.2–23.3; p = 0.0022). Furthermore, the CV event-free rate was longer in ASA-treated than in non-ASA-treated patients (log-rank test 12.3; p = 0.0004), Figure 1.

Conclusions: The incidence rate of CV events in our Italian multicentric cohort was lower than that reported in other European and non-European cohorts. Low-dose ASA may have a role in the primary prophylaxis of CV events in RA patients.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

NO RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ACPA AND PERIODONTITIS IN EARLY RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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Background: Proteins citrullination contributes to generate anticitrullinated peptide antibodies (ACPA) in autoimmune disorders (RA). Porphyromonas gingivalis (Pg) is one of main germs incriminated in the development of periodontitis (PD), it has an enzyme called peptidyl arginine deiminase which is able to citrullinate the host proteins.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to seek for a possible association between ACPA and periodontitis

Methods: We conducted a case-control study of 69 patients with early rheumatoid arthritis (≤2 years), naive of biotherapy and 138 age-and sex matched healthy controls. Smokers, diabetics, and subjects who received dental care and those who used antibiotics in the previous 6 months were not included. Demographic data and ACPA were determined. A periodontal examination was performed to all participants. Subgingival plaque samples were analysed to seek for Porphyromonas gingivalis (Pg) in both population in the case of periodontitis.

Results: The mean age of our patients was 40.75±12.04, the mean duration of the illness was 14.30±7.68 months (extremes: 1–24 months). ACPA was detected in 88% of patients and the mean titre was 255.57±409.78. PD frequency was higher in patient with PR compared with healthy controls (43% versus 29%) and a significant association was found between PR and PD (p<0.05). Patients with RA had 2.46 (CI 1.12 to 5.39) higher odds of having PD compared with healthy controls. In early RA, ACPA titre and rate was not associated with PD (p=0.06, p=0.44 respectively). Regarding the frequency of Porphyromonas gingivalis, there was no significant difference between the PR group and the control group (p=0.45). In addition, there was no significant difference between RA group and controls (p=0.68) concerning Porphyromonas gingivalis and ACPA

Conclusions: Periodontitis is a risk factor for the occurrence of rheumatoid arthritis. The ACPA does not seem to be related to periodontitis. In addition there was no association between ACPA and the presence of porphyromonas gingivalis.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

THE ABILITY OF DISEASE ACTIVITY MEASURES TO PREDICT MAJOR THERAPEUTIC CHANGE IN US VETERANS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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Background: Current rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treatment guidelines recommend the use of disease activity measures (DAMs) to guide RA therapy. These guidelines recommend comparing escalation of therapy in RA patients with high or moderate disease activity. Recent work by our group has demonstrated that many RA patients with high/moderate RA by Disease Activity Score 28 joints (DAS28) did not have therapy escalated despite active disease (DAS28 >3.2).

Objectives: 1) To determine if the rate of major therapeutic change (MTC) for RA patients with high/moderate disease activity based on DAS28 was similar when measured using two other common DAMs; 2) To compare the ability of different DAMs to predict MTC across the full spectrum of RA disease activity.

Methods: US Veterans enrolled in the VA Rheumatoid Arthritis (VARA) registry with 1) a complete set of DAMs (DAS28, Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI), Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID3)) recorded (index date), 2) two other visits during the preceding 18 months separated by at least 60 days, and 3) clinical data available for 18 months prior to through 30 days following index date were eligible. Each patient was assessed for MTC within 1 week before and 30 days after index date. MTC was defined as any of the following: 1) initiation of new biologic or nonbiologic DMARD, 2) escalation of DMARD dose by ≥25%, 3) initiation of prednisone (as new agent or after 90 day gap during baseline), or 4) increase in monthly dose of corticosteroids. MTC was analysed by DAM severity thresholds of 1) high, moderate, low, and remission, and 2) high, high/moderate, and high/moderate/low. Analyses of the latter thresholds included sensitivity, specificity, predictive values, and accuracy estimations for MTC at each DAM level.

Results: Of 1776 eligible patients, 89% were male, mean age was 63.4 years, mean disease duration was 13.4 years, 79% tested positive for rheumatoid factor.