CAUSES OF DEATH IN CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE

SULFASALAZINE AS A POTENTIAL TREATMENT FOR


Disclosure of Interest: None declared


Abstract FRIO481 – Figure 1. Interactions between GCA, IBD and covariates

Conclusions: The probability that GCA patients may also suffer from IBD is increased in comparison with age- and gender-matched controls. Our findings indicate that this association is most prominent in younger patients (<70). Screening for IBD amongst GCA patients in this age group may be warranted.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interest: None declared


CAUSES OF DEATH IN CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE (CTD’S) AND VASCULITIDES; DATA FROM THE NORWEGIAN CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES AND VASCULITIS REGISTRY (NOSVAR)

T. Garen, K. Lerang, H. Andersson, G. Midveldt, K. Kilian, S. Reister, R. Gunnarsson, B. Gulbrandson, Ø. Molberg, Ø. Palm, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo University Hospital, Rikshospitalet, Oslo, Norway

Background: Mortality as an outcome of disease’s severity and causes of death can give extended insight into the nature of each specific diagnose and highlight distinct needs for monitoring. In connective tissue diseases (CTD) and systemic vasculitides, mortality and causes of death have been studied within most single diseases, but with heterogeneity of the studies and widely varying results. Studies applying similar methods across the diagnoses are lacking. Consequently, it is difficult to compare causes of death between the different diagnoses.

Objectives: To identify the causes of death within different CTDs and systemic vasculitides.

Methods: We performed a prospective, observational, controlled study between 1999 and 2017 of adult patients (at least 18 years of age) with diagnosis of CTD or vasculitides. All patients were included in the Norwegian connective tissue disease and vasculitis Registry (NOSVAR). In total, 2140 patients were diagnosed and followed up until death or study end by April 31th 2017. To avoid bias by selection, we included only incident cases, excluding patients with diagnoses set prior to 1999. Moreover, cases with a disease course not consistent with the initial diagnoses were excluded. Causes of death were identified by linking NOSVAR to the Norwegian Causes of Death Registry and by reviewing hospital charts. We divided the causes of death into the main groups of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), neoplasms, chronic respiratory disease (CRD), infections and other (gastrointestinal, renal insufficiency and trauma). To compare causes of death to the general population we used data from WHO Mortality Database. Causes of death:

Results: During a mean (SD) follow-up time of 9.2 years (4.7), 279 patients (13%) deceased. The major causes of death were, in descending order of frequency; CVD (27%), neoplasms (25%), CRD (16%), infections (11%), gastrointestinal manifestations (4%), renal insufficiency (2%). Data from the general population, adjusted for age and gender, showed that deaths by CVD, CRD and infections were more prevalent among the patients. The leading causes of death are shown in figure 1. In Takayasu arteritis and ISSc, CVD was the most frequent cause of death; (56%) and (41%), respectively. More than half of the patients (53%) with antisynthetase syndrome died of CRD. Those with dermatomyositis died most frequently of neoplasms (50%).

Conclusions: Compared to general population, patients with CTD and vasculitides died more often of CVD, CRD and infections. CVD as a cause of death was most prevalent in patients with Takayasu arteritis, giant cell arteritis and systemic sclerosis, while neoplasm was the major cause of death in dermatomyositis. In antisyntethase syndrome, both CRD was the major causes of death. The study gives the clinician valuable information on how to monitoring the different CTDs and vasculitides regarding serious outcome.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interest: None declared


SULFASALAZINE AS A POTENTIAL TREATMENT FOR IGA-VASCULITIS (HENCHO-SCHÖNLEIN PURPURA) IN ADULTS

S. Gillesev, A. Senevoychv, J.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, Moscow, Russian Federation

Background: Primary IgA-vasculitis and inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) share many clinical, endoscopic, and radiological signs. It may suggest a common pathogenetic background for both pathological conditions. While sulfasalazine (SASP) is one of the well-known potential agents able to improve symptoms in IBD, the usefulness of SASP in treatment of the primary Iga-vasculitis remains unclear.

Objectives: Retrospective study to assess a therapeutic value of the SASP in primary Iga-vasculitis.

Methods: Totally 78 adult patients with primary Iga-vasculitis were enrolled in this study. Diagnosis was made on the basis of EULAR/PRES criteria after thorough screening to exclude a secondary nature of the disease, including colonoscopy. Purpura/petechia was present in 48 patients (61.5%). There were no patients with abdominal syndrome just before enrollment, although 46 (59%) patients had transient abdominal pains in the history. Mild to moderate signs of renal involvement (hematuria and/or proteinuria) was seen in 35 (45%) patients without renal impairment. There were 20 (25%) drug-naïve patients, 40 (51%) patients after unsuccessful immunosuppressive treatment and 18 (23%) patients failed to respond to anticoagulants or antiplatelet agents. Initially SASP was prescribed in a daily dose 1 g followed with gradual titrating up to the 2 g/day depending on tolerability and clinical response. Most patients (96%) have been taking SASP longer than 6 month and about a half of the patients (56%) – longer than a year. The longest treatment was 5 years.

Results: Complete clinical remission of the skin rash was achieved in 48 patients (58.9%). In 27 patients (35%), there was partial improvement of the skin eruptions, characterised with less quantity of the skin purpura or longer periods free of
s symptoms (see table 1). Four patients failed to improve at all. Persistent remission of the arthritis/arthralgia was found in 41 patients (85%). One patient did not improve. Complete resolution of the urinary abnormalities were registered in 14 patients (40%), improvement – in 17 cases (48.5%), further deterioration in 4 patients (11.5%).

There were side effects in 13 patients (16%). In 5 (5.1%) cases there were headache and nausea, respectively. In 2 (2.5%) cases treatment was accompanied with skin itching and urticarial rash. Most severe complication presented with reversible cytolyis, characterised with increase of AST and ALT up to the 2–5 normal limits in 3 cases (2.5%).

**Conclusions:** To our knowledge, this is the first experience of SASP in treatment of primary IgA-vasculitis not reported before. Preliminary results look promising and worthy of further evaluation.

**REFERENCE:**


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**Table 1. Clinical response to SASP treatment in primary IgA-vasculitis (n=78)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical features</th>
<th>Complete remission</th>
<th>Partial remission</th>
<th>No response</th>
<th>Worsening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skin purpura (n=78)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>58.9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arthritis or arthralgia (n=48)</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hematuria and/or proteinuria (n=35)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>48.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FR10485**

**OVERALL SURVIVAL AND MORTALITY RISK FACTORS IN TAKAYASU’S ARTERITIS: A MULTICENTER STUDY OF 318 PATIENTS**

A. Giolo1,2,3, E.M.A. Hensor1,2, J. Andrews2, M.H. Buch1,2. 1Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds; 2NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, UK; 3Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, University of Verona, Verona, Italy

**Background:** Patients with ANCA-associated vasculitides (AAV) are at increased risk of cardiovascular (CV) disease than the general population. The factors associated with CV involvement in AAV are poorly understood.

**Objectives:** To explore whether patient and disease-related characteristics associate with CV disease from a single-centre AAV cohort.

**Methods:** Medical records from 145 patients with AAV were reviewed and patients’ diagnoses reclassified according to a validated algorithm.1 CV events (CVE) were defined as myocardial infarction, cerebrovascular accident, thromboembolic event, heart failure, or death/hospitalisation due to CV cause. Time to first CVE was calculated; patients without CVE were censored at most recent clinical follow-up. Data on CV risk factors (hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney disease stage III or higher) were collected. Putative predictors included age, sex, diagnosis (GPA, MPA, EGPA, unclassifiable AAV – UAAV), ANCA (absent, PR3, MPO), number of BVAS items, prior CV disease and number of CV risk factors. Cox proportional hazards regression was used to assess the relationship between CVE and predictors. In this exploratory analysis we used p<0.10 to indicate potential associations.

**Results:** 122 patients who had been followed up for between 6 months and 23 years were included in the analysis. 11/122 patients (10%) had prior history of CV disease. 17 patients (14%) experienced a CVE within median IQR (5.8 (1.4, 7.6) years of diagnosis. Univariable analyses indicated older age at diagnosis, MPA and prior CVD were associated with increased risk of CVE, and that those with UAAV were at decreased risk compared to GPA. With the exception of previous CVD an adjusted model confirmed the same associations (table 1).

**FR10490**

**PHENOTYPE OF ANCA ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS ASSOCIATES WITH MAJOR CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS: A RETROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY FROM THE LEEDS VASCULITIS COHORT**

A. Giolo1,2,3, E.M.A. Hensor1,2, J. Andrews2, M.H. Buch1,2. 1Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds; 2NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds, UK; 3Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, University of Verona, Verona, Italy

**Background:** Among patients with AAV, MPA may have a higher CV risk, whereas UAAV may be associated with a decreased risk. Along with ANCA status, AAV phenotype may inform future CV risk reduction interventions in AAV.

We define high risk patients for death and vascular complications according to the presence of two of the following factors (i.e a progressive clinical course, thoracic aorta involvement and/or retroperitoneal) elaborated based on the multivariate model. The probability of death and complication free survival at five years was 78.4% (69.4–88.6) and 51.5% (38.3–69.2) (p=0.001) in the low risk and high risk group, respectively.

**Conclusions:** The overall mortality in our Takayasu cohort was 5% after a median follow-up of 6.1 years. Caucasian and tobacco smokers were associated with mortality in TA. We developed a simple and useful prognosis score to identify patients at risk for vascular complication and death.

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