Results: 437 RA patients were included in the current analysis; 71% women, 79% anti-CCP pos, 71% RF pos, median(IQR) age 54(42-62) years, CRP 7(3-16), SJC28 5(3-26) and TJC28 6(2-28). The median (IQR) PD sum score was 3(0-7) for right hand and 2(0-5) for left hand, GS sum score was 5(2-9) for both hands, and GLOESS was 5(2-10) for right hand and 5(2-9) for left hand. The average ultrasound measured inflammation at baseline and 3 months follow-up are shown in the table. The hands with more vs fewer SwJ had more inflammation at baseline for all sum scores, all $p < .0001$) and had a greater change for all sum scores at 3 months follow-up (all $p < 0.0005$). No such differences were found between the dominant vs non-dominant or the right vs left hands at any time points – see table. **Conclusion:** Based on this study, assessment of the dominant hand is not superior to the non-dominant hand in inflammatory activity evaluated by US. The hand with clinically more SwJ at baseline is likely to have more active inflammation according to GS, Doppler and GLOESS sum scores and exhibit a greater change, and is potentially the best choice for unilateral US scoring systems.

REFERENCES:

- [1] Dale J, Stirling A, Zhang R, Purves D, Foley J, Sambrook M, et al. Targeting ultrasound remission in early rheumatoid arthritis: the results of the TaSER study, a randomised clinical trial. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2016;75:1043-50.
- [2] Haavardsholm EA, Aga AB, Olsen IC, Lillegraven S, Hammer HB, Uhlig T, et al. Ultrasound in management of rheumatoid arthritis: ARCTIC randomised controlled strategy trial. *BMJ.* 2016;354:i4205.
- [3] Hammer HB, Bolton-King P, Bakkeheim V, Berg TH, Sundt E, Kongtorp AK, et al. Examination of intra and interrater reliability with a new ultrasonographic reference atlas for scoring of synovitis in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2011;70:1995-8.

Disclosure of Interests: Lene Terslev Speakers bureau: Speakers fee from : Roche, Novartis, Pfizer, MSD, BMS, Celgene, Robin Christensen Grant/research support from: AbbVie Inc, and the Oak Foundation, Speakers bureau: Roche, Anna-Birgitte Aga Consultant for: UCB, AbbVie, and Pfizer, Paid instructor for: UCB, Joe Sexton: None declared, Espen A Haavardsholm Grant/research support from: research funding from Pfizer, UCB, Roche, MSD, and AbbVie., Hilde Berner Hammer Speakers bureau: speakers fee from AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Roche, UCB Pharma and Pfizer
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2019-eular.2837

FRI0626

DIFFICULTIES WITH MAKING A FIST IN PATIENTS WITH CLINICALLY SUSPECT ARTHRALGIA; AN EARLY PHENOMENON PREDICTIVE FOR RA THAT IS RELATED TO MRI-DETECTED TENOSYNOVITIS

Fenne Wouters¹, Florus van der Giesen¹, Xanthe Matthijssen¹, Ellis Niemantsverdriet¹, Annette van der Helm - van Mil^{1,2}. ¹Leiden University Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Leiden, Netherlands; ²Erasmus University Medical Centre, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Background: Difficulties with making a fist in patients presenting with recent-onset arthralgia of small joints, in whom there is no clinically detectable arthritis, is often considered a risk factor for the development of inflammatory arthritis. The fact that rheumatologists consider difficulties with making a fist a feature of imminent Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is also reflected by this sign being incorporated in the EULAR definition of arthralgia suspicious for progression to RA. However, to date there is little comprehension on its predictive value and underlying cause in patients with recent-onset arthralgia.

Objectives: This study was performed to 1) determine if difficulties making a fist is indeed predictive for the development of clinical arthritis, and 2) evaluate if this sign is associated with subclinical joint inflammation, detected by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Methods: 566 patients presenting with recent-onset (<1 year) arthralgia of small joints that were consecutively included in the Clinically Suspect Arthralgia (CSA) cohort were studied. At baseline the ability to completely close the fist (all fingertips touching the palm) was assessed at physical examination. Additionally, contrast-enhanced 1.5T MRI of wrist, 2nd-5th metacarpophalangeal (MCP) and 1st-5th metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joints was performed. MRIs were scored for synovitis, bone marrow edema (BME) and tenosynovitis in line with the RAMRIS. MRI-detected subclinical inflammation was considered present if it was more than observed in symptom-free controls from the general population in the same age-category (n=193). Patients were followed on the development of clinically detectable inflammatory arthritis identified at joint examination (median

follow-up 19 months); none of the patients received DMARDs before the development of clinical arthritis. χ^2 tests, logistic and Cox proportional hazards regression were used as appropriate.

Results: At first presentation 12% of CSA-patients had difficulties making a fist with one or both hands. Having difficulties making a fist was predictive for development of clinical arthritis in univariable analysis (HR 2.47 (95% CI 1.46-4.19)) and in multivariable analysis (HR 2.16 (1.25-3.74) corrected for age, CRP, ACPA and MRI-detected subclinical inflammation). Patients with difficulties making a fist had significantly more often MCP tenosynovitis (flexor tenosynovitis and extensor peritendinitis combined) than patients who did not experience these problems (42% versus 16%, $p < 0.001$). The main difference was seen in MCP flexor tenosynovitis (39% versus 10%, $p < 0.001$). MCP flexor tenosynovitis was significantly associated with difficulties making a fist in univariable (OR 5.6 (95% CI 3.2-9.9)), and multivariable regression (OR 5.7 (3.2-10.2) corrected for extensor peritendinitis, synovitis and BME in MCP joints). Extensor peritendinitis, synovitis and BME in MCP joints were not associated with difficulties making a fist (multivariable OR 0.7 (0.2-2.1), 0.99 (0.5-2.1) and 1.6 (0.7-4.1), respectively).

Conclusion: Difficulties making a fist in patients with CSA is predictive for future inflammatory arthritis development. This sign is presumably caused by MCP flexor tenosynovitis in a significant proportion of patients.

Disclosure of Interests: Fenne Wouters: None declared, Florus van der Giesen: None declared, Xanthe Matthijssen: None declared, Ellis Niemantsverdriet: None declared, Annette van der Helm - van Mil Grant/research support from: The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Starting grant, agreement No 714312) and from the Dutch Arthritis Foundation.

The funding source had no role in the design and conduct of the study.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2019-eular.3003

FRI0627

DOES ADDING AN US EXAMINATION OF SHOULDERS, TO A ROUTINE DAS-28 SCORE, IMPROVE ACCURACY OF DISEASE ACTIVITY SCORES AND DISEASE STATUS? RESULTS OF A SINGLE CENTRE PILOT STUDY

Qasim Akram¹, Lara Valor², Iustina Janta³, Juan Carlos Nieto³, Letitia Garcia³, Belen Serrano³, Teresa Pedrosa³, Francisco J. López-Longo³, Indalecio Montegudo Sáez³, Esperanza Naredo⁴. ¹The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Rheumatology, Manchester, United Kingdom; ²Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain; ³Gregorio Marañón Hospital, Madrid, Spain; ⁴Hospital Universitario Fundación Jiménez Díaz, Madrid, Spain

Background: The DAS28 forms the mainstay of current RA and other chronic inflammatory arthritis (CIA) [i.e. peripheral spondyloarthritis (SpA)] management in clinical practice. DAS28 has certain limitations. Some joints especially the shoulders are difficult to evaluate correctly using this method. The shoulder is deep and highly affected by rotator cuff tendon lesions either due to degenerative or inflammatory arthritis. This structural damage can produce pain and swelling. A swollen shoulder joint can be difficult to palpate by physical examination. Using a clinical approach can be inaccurate to ascertain whether shoulder involvement is actually due to true RA-derived inflammatory activity or other degenerative or structural causes.

Objectives: To investigate the added value of adding a US assessment of shoulders to DAS28 scores and on disease activity status, in patients with CIA (RA or peripheral SpA) in either disease remission or low disease states who had shoulder pain.

Methods: Patients were recruited prospectively over a 3-month period. Each patient had a standard DAS28 performed followed by a formal physical shoulder examination, of both shoulders, including testing active and passive range of movements. A complete US examination of both shoulders was carried out by a rheumatologist experienced in this technique. All patients were examined using the same real-time US machine (Esaote MyLab Twice) using a linear probe, 3-13 MHz frequency and 57% gain. The original DAS28 was recalculated (i.e. US-modified DAS28) according to the presence/absence of inflammatory findings on shoulder US.

Results: Thirty-eight patients [82% females; mean ($\pm$ SD) age 60.3 (11.96) years] were included. In 33 out of 38 (87% [CI95%: 76-98%]) patients the original DAS28 was greater than the US-modified DAS28. This percentage was significantly greater than 50% ($p < 0.001$). The mean $\pm$ SD reduction of DAS28 in those patients who showed DAS28 decrease was 0.73 ± 0.39 units. Twenty-five patients (65.8%) maintained the same disease activity status with original DAS28 and US-modified