test 8 (MMT8) were collected. Data were reported as median±interquartile range; non-parametric tests were used for the analysis.

Results: Subsequently, presented muscular edema in at least one muscle. Patients with muscular edema had higher CK levels (1506±1976 vs 235±224 p<0.001) lower disease duration (9.5±7.0 vs 19.8±7.2 p=0.01), and lower MMT8 (63.6±11.2 vs 69.8±10.7 p=0.01).

Forty-eight patients presented fatty infiltrates that were more frequent in older patients (63.1±11.3 vs 52.8±13.7 p=0.01) and in those with longer disease duration (39.1±8.5 vs 9.5±12.2 p=0.024). CK levels and MMT8 were not different in patients with or without muscular fatty infiltrates. With the multivariate analysis the disease duration represents the only independent factor for the presence of muscular fatty infiltrates (p=0.05).

Muscular atrophy was present in 17 patients but it was not correlated to age and disease duration. CK and MMT8 were not different in presence/absence of fatty infiltrates or muscular atrophy.

Edema and atrophy were not different between poly- and dermatomyositis. The fatty infiltrate was more present in the posterior compartment of the tights (biceps femoris and semitendinosus muscle) in patients with PM compared to DM (68.2% vs 29.6% p=0.046).

Conclusion: The alterations identified with MRI in our cohort changed across different decades and the age of the patients. In particular, fatty infiltration was more frequent in patients with longer disease duration, but was not associated to CK levels and muscular weakness. Moreover, fatty infiltration was prevalent in the posterior compartment of the tights in PM patients.

Muscular MRI is widely used in the diagnosis and follow-up but the clinical meanings of the different alterations still need to be investigated.

Disclosure of Interests: Simone Barosotti: None declared, Barbara Mugelini: None declared, Alessandra Tripoli: None declared, Giacomo Ariberti: None declared, Chiara Cardelli: None declared, Elisa Cioffi: None declared, Virginia Zampa: None declared, Davide Caramella: None declared, Marta Mosca: Paid instructor for: GlaxoSmithKline, Lilly, UCBB, Rossella Neri: None declared.


CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED TO SCLERODERMA RENAL CRISIS, AND INCIDENCE VARIATION OVER TIME IN THE RESCLE REGISTRY

Xavier Pia Salas1, Carles Tolosa2, Eduardo L. Cailejbas-Moraga2, Alfred Guillén del Castillo3, Jose Antonio Toldri Parra4, Luis Trapella Martínez2, Mónica Rodríguez Carbaleira2, Adela Marin Ballvé6, Isabel Perale Frías6, Vicent Forgaillos2, Carmen Pilar Simeón-Aznar2,7, On Behalf of the RESCLE Investigators, Autoimmune Diseases Study Group (Geas)11.


Methods: Subsequently, presented muscular edema in at least one muscle. Patients with muscular edema had higher CK levels (1506±1976 vs 235±224 p<0.001) lower disease duration (9.5±7.0 vs 19.8±7.2 p=0.01), and lower MMT8 (63.6±11.2 vs 69.8±10.7 p=0.01).

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Conclusion: The alterations identified with MRI in our cohort changed across different decades and the age of the patients. In particular, fatty infiltration was more frequent in patients with longer disease duration, but was not associated to CK levels and muscular weakness. Moreover, fatty infiltration was prevalent in the posterior compartment of the tights in PM patients.

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MODIFIED ACR COMPOSITE RESPONSE INDEX IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS SCORE SHOWS SENSITIVITY AND EXTERNAL VALIDATION TO MEASURE MAGNITUDE OF RESPONSE AT 12 MONTHS IN DIFFUSE CUTANEOUS SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Giuseppina Abignano1,2,3, Antonio Carriero1,2, Sookhoo Enng2, Francisco Del Gaudio1,2, Leeds Institute of Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom; 2NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust, Leeds, United Kingdom; 3Rheumatology Institute of Lucania (IReL), Rheumatology Department of Lucania, Potenza, Italy

Background: The Composite Response Index in Systemic Sclerosis (CRiSS) is a 2-step process for the probability of improvement of patients with diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis (dcSSc) ranging from 0.0 (no improvement) to 1.0 (1). The limitation of probability is that it does not measure magnitude of response and it cannot be negative, hence reflecting the response magnitude.

Objectives: Here we aimed to test the performance of CRiSS numerator normalised by baseline values to assess% change at 12 months in an observational cohort.

Methods: Consecutive dcSSc patients were included in the study at a single centre. Clinical data were collected at baseline and 12 months and CRiSS calculated using the published formula. To explore the quantitative value of the numerator, each of the 5 domains was corrected for their baseline value (e.g (12 months baseline)/baseline = Delta%) while keeping their original relative weight in the formula. The weighted sum was then divided by the number of domains. The modified CRiSS (mCRS) was then compared with the original CRiSS score and with another composite score calculated in randomized controlled trials, the Global Ranked Composite Score (GRCS) (2). Death and organ failure were also included and assigned the worst negative values. Spearman’s test was used for Prism 7 correlation analysis. P < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: Thirty-three dcSSc patients were enrolled. Twenty-one patients had a CRiSS = 0.0%. Twelve patients had a positive CRiSS ranging from 1% to 77%. 18/21 patients with CRiSS = 0 showed a negative mCRS (negative response = worsening) ranging from -9% to -2500%. 10/12 with positive CRiSS showed a corresponding positive mCRS ranging from 1% to 22%. mCRS had a significant correlation with CRiSS (r = 0.5, p = 0.003) and GRCS (r = 0.7, p <0.0001) despite the low number of patients enrolled.

Conclusion: Normalization by baseline data within CRiSS numerator offers a quantitative score to assess magnitude of response, considering the 5 domains and their relative weight within the original CRiSS. The mCRS
MALIGNANT CONDITIONS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

GAZE PATTERN ANALYSIS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF MALIGNANCY

OBJECTIVES: We aim to assess the incidence of malignancy, clinical and laboratory factors associated with this complication.

METHODS: We identified 43 patients with biopsy and/or imaging confirmed malignant conditions (SSc-C); additionally, case-control study was performed with identifying SSc patients without cancer (All-NC, N=86) divided into two subgroups: matching age (Age-NC, N=43) and matching disease duration (DD-NC, N=43).

RESULTS: Since 2004, 424 SSc patients were assessed at our center (340 EUSTAR registry participants); 43 (10.1%) SSc-C patients (7 males [16.3%]; age [years, standard deviation, SD] 68.1[12.7]; age at SSc onset 52.9[14.9]; age at first cancer diagnosis 54.2[12.7]; smoking 12 [27.9]; had various types of tumors: breast 9; lung 8; neck & head 8; brain-3, thyroid-3, parotis-1, laryngs-1); genito-urinary 8 (prostate-1, ovary-3, uterus-4; bladder-4); myeloma 1); skin 3; pheochromocytoma 1, carcinoid 2; sarcoma 1. Thirty patients (30.2%) developed cancer three years before or after SSc onset; 7 patients had cancer long before SSc; 6 patients had two cancers. Comparison between SSc-C patients and subgroups Age-NC, DD-NC and All-NC patient's subgroup did not reveal any difference in term of disease subset, presence of antibodies to topoisomerase, centromere, RNA polymerase, and clinical features (digital ulcers, IBD, GGT & heart involvement, PAH, myositis, polyautoimmunity); there were no cases of SRC in SSc-C patients compared to 8 (9.3%) patients in All-NC patients. Twenty-six (60.5%) SSc-C patients died compared to 16 (37.2%) in Age-NC (P=0.08), DD-NC (P=0.001), All-NC (P=0.001). SSc related death was reported in 22.1% of All-NC patients and 16.3% of SSc-C (P=NS); 19 patients died from cancer (73.1%). There were no differences between cancer and non-cancer patients in term of treatment with methotrexate, mycophenolate, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, calcium blockers and iloprost. 24.3% SSc-C patients were treated with bosentan compared to 44.5% (P=0.015).

CONCLUSION: Malignancy is an often and variable scleroderma complication: it could preclude SSC or appeared during SSC course. Patients with malignancy had higher mortality rate and mostly died from cancer. There were no cases of cancer in those patients who developed SRC. Patients treated with bosentan has less incidence of tumor. Prompt screening for cancer should be considered as a reasonable approach in caring SSc patients; early diagnosis and treatment of tumor may improve SSc patients' survival.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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GAZE PATTERN ANALYSIS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF DIGITAL ULCERS IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

BACKGROUND: The assessment of chronic wounds such as digital ulcers (DUs) in systemic sclerosis relies heavily on visual aspects. However, inter-rater variability in the assessment and definition of digital ulcers is low and there are no evidence-based data concerning the visual assessment of digital ulcers.

OBJECTIVES: We analysed gaze pattern data in order to evaluate differences in the visual assessment of digital ulcers in systemic sclerosis patients.

METHODS: We analysed gaze pattern data from 36 subjects: 9 expert medical professionals (EMP), 8 non-expert medical professionals (NEMP), 9 medical graduates (MG) and 10 lay persons (novices). Assessment was done using a mobile eye-tracking device that tracks eye movements of subjects. Twenty pictures from digital ulcers of SSc patients were presented to each subject, 30 seconds each and characteristics of gaze pattern data were analysed. The analysis comprised the scan path, the dwell times (for areas of interest, AOI), fixation counts and the entry time for each picture and subject. Areas of interest were defined as the wound area, wound margin, wound surroundings and distracting and non-relevant parts of the pictures. The visual assessment of the digital ulcers was accompanied by questions for each subject about their assessment of the DUs, the expected healing of the ulcer, the medical treatment of the patient.

RESULTS: Most significant differences were found between novices and medically educated groups (expert medical professionals, non-expert medical professionals, medical graduates - EMP, NEMP, MG). Dwell times in the wound area for novices differed statistically significantly from all medically educated groups (1.76s-3.13s less). Above all, novel had lower dwell times in wound margin and wound surrounding and spent more time in areas with other distracting features of the picture and white space (up to 1.92s longer). Correspondingly, they had less fixation points and longer overall scan paths in wound areas. Similar gaze pattern data were observed for medically educated groups, however NEMP had a statistically significantly lower dwell time in the wound area than EMP. Questionnaire responses were compared to an expert opinion (gold standard) and EMP had significantly more correct answers on prognosis and treatment than MG for wound assessment, but not better than NEMP. However, treatment and prognosis were best in the EMP group with statistical difference to the NEMP and MG group.

CONCLUSION: For the first time, we provide evidence-based data on the visual assessment of digital ulcers in SSC. These data will be useful for the development of a structured educational programme for young physicians, rheumatology trainees and medical graduates. A key finding is that the visual assessment of digital ulcers should increasingly emphasize the importance of pathologic changes in the wound margin and surrounding area of the wound. Hence a structured approach should focus on all areas of the wound while discarding distracting visual information. An adequate terminology should be used alongside.

REFERENCE

Disclosure of Interests: : Thomas Moser: None declared, Quentin Lohmeyer: None declared, Mirko Moboldt: None declared, Oliver Distler: Grant/research support from: Prof. Distler received research funding from Actelion, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim and Mitsubishi Tanabe to investigate potential treatments of scleroderma and its complications, Consultant for: Prof. Distler has/had consultancy relationship with the last 3 years with Actelion, AnaMar, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, ChemomAb, espeRade foundation, Genentech/Roche, GSK, Inventiva, Italfarmaco, IQvia, Lilly, medac, MedImmune, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma, Pharmacyclics, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, Serodapharm and UCB in the area of potential treatments of scleroderma and its complications. In addition, he had/has consultancy relationship within the last 3 years with A. Menasri, Argen, Abbvie, GSK, Mepha, MSD, Pfizer and UCB in the field of anitbodies and related disorders, Mike O. Becker: None declared