AB0555
POTENTIAL ROLE OF PAROTID ELASTOGRAPHY IN DIAGNOSIS AND CLASSIFICATION OF PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME
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Background: Despite the improvements in classifying patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome with usage of the new 2016 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, there remains to be a need for improvement and investigating the value of new modalities in diagnosing as well as classifying these patients.

Objectives: To investigate potential role of parotid elastography in diagnosis and classification of patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) and contributions of these findings to classification criteria sets

Methods: This is a cross sectional analysis of patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome followed up in our out-patient Rheumatology clinic. We performed chart reviews and retrospectively investigated the available data of pSS and contributions of these findings to classification criteria sets were interpreted.

Results: There were 95 pSS patients and 30 healthy gender and age matched controls. Strain ratio, shearwave velocity and Pascal values of the glands were examined. Parotid strain ratio, submandibular strain ratio and submandibular strain ratio and submandibular Pascal values were statistically significantly different compared to healthy controls (Table). 36% of patients considered clinically as Sjögren’s syndrome satisfied 2016 ACR/EULAR (criteria patients) and 84 satisfied 2002 AER classification criteria. We grouped patients with respect to parotid strain ratio taking 1.0875 as the cut-off value. Those patients who did not satisfy 2016 ACR/EULAR criteria, but clinically diagnosed patients satisfied the 2002 AEG and/or 2016 ACR/EULAR criteria sets. Ultrasonographic and elastographic evaluation of parotid and submandibular glands bilaterally were performed on consecutive patients with clinical diagnosis of pSS and contributions of these findings to classification criteria sets were interpreted.

Conclusion: Parotid shear elastography is an easy and noninvasive method and can be a useful tool for the diagnosis and classification of patients with pSS (1).

REFERENCES

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

AB0556
PARTICULARITIES OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS
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Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease that primarily affects young women. It is characterized by the production of autoantibodies and immune complexes. Vascular pulmonary involvement has long been considered rare, a consequence of strong anti-cardioembolic events. It is in fact a proper entity, often of multifactorial mechanism, with spontaneous evolution to pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), which makes its gravity.

Objectives: The objective of our study is to determine the particularities of PAH during SLE.

Methods: We conducted a mono-centric, retrospective and descriptive study of the follow-up of patients in the internal medicine department of the Military Hospital of Tunis for LES (diagnosis according to the ARA criteria) between January 2010 and December 2015.

Results: All patients underwent external echocardiography or during their stay in the department.

Conclusion: We collected 87 patients diagnosed with SLE. PAH was recorded in 16 patients (38%) including 6 men and 10 women with a F/M sex ratio of 1.66. The average age was 37.23 years with extremes ranging from 16 to 70 years old. Clinically, we observed dyspnea in 10 patients (52%), chest pain in 7 cases (43%), dry cough in 2 cases (12%), palpitations in 1 case (6%) and right heart failure in 1 case (6%). At cardiac auscultation, 5 patients were tachycardic (31%), 5 had a tricuspid systolic murmur and 1 had an irregular rhythm. A burst of B2 in the pulmonary focus was noted in 3 patients (18%). Nine of the 16 patients with PAH had electrical signs: five had sinus tachycardia (31%), two had signs of right ventricular hypertrophy. A complete arrhythmia with atrial fibrillation was noted in one patient. The chest X-ray showed cardiomegaly in 6 patients (37%). Among the 16 patients, there was a tricuspid valve insufficiency associated with PAH in 7 patients (43%), 2 had mitral valve insufficiency (12%), 6 patients had pericarditis, one patient had endocarditis (6%) and myocarditis was found in another one (6%). PAH was isolated in 12 cases. In Immunological tests, NAs were positive in all patients. Three quarters of the patients (12) had native anti-DNA positive (75%) and ¼ of the patients (4) had anti-Sm positive and anti-RNP positive antibodies (25%). The complement was consumed in 5 cases (31.2%). Anti-phospholipid antibodies were noted in 4 cases (25%). Added to non-specific measures (smoking cessation, elimination of intense physical effort ... adopted for all patients, oxygen therapy was indicated in four patients. Diltiazem 180 mg/day vasodilator therapy was prescribed in 3 patients. Effective anti-vitamin K anticoagulation was prescribed in a patient with severe PAH at 80 mmHg.

Conclusion: Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a rare complication of systemic lupus erythematosus, its prevalence varies from 0.5 to 17.5% depending on the series. SLE is the second leading cause of PAH in connective tissue disease after systemic sclerosis. This vascular involvement is essential for the prognosis and is an important evolutionary step in the management.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

AB0557
NON-CORONARY CARDIAC MANIFESTATIONS OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN ADULTS
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Background: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic multi-system autoimmune disorder of unknown etiology causing injury to connective tissues. It predominantly affects young women. Cardiac manifestations develop in the majority of patients with SLE at some time during the course of their disease.

Objectives: The aim of our study is to assess cardiac abnormalities in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) by echocardiography and to compare the 2 groups of patients with and without cardiac manifestations.

Methods: We have performed a transversal, descriptive study of SLE patients hospitalized in the Internal Medicine department at the Military Hospital of Tunis between January 2016 and June 2018. Diagnosis of SLE was made according to the criteria of ACR. All patients underwent a cardiac ultrasound externally or during their stay in our department.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared
Results: The patients were 61 females and 19 males (sex-ratio=3) with a mean age of 38 years. Forty-two patients had cardiac involvement. They were 33 female and 9 male with a mean age of the disease of 31,8 years (16-80 years) at the beginning of the disease and 41 years at the time of the study. 83% of patients were symptomatic. The symptoms were dominated by objectified chest pain (43%). In Doppler echocardiography, pericarditis was found in 23 patients (55%) with a single case of cardiac tamponade. Libman Saks endocarditis and lupus myocarditis were found in one case each. Pulmonary hypertension (HTP) was observed in 16 patients (38%) and valvular disease in 22 patients (52%). Cardiomegaly was observed in 9 patients (21%). Electrical abnormalities were dominated by microvoltage found in 8 patients. The general symptoms (83%), skin lesions (76%) and musculoskeletal involvement (64%) were the most frequent events associated with the cardiac manifestations in group 1. ANA were positive in 97% of cases and antiphospholipid antibodies in 24%. Prednisone 1mg/kg/day and immunosuppressive therapy were indicated respectively in 71% and 38% of patients.

Conclusion: Cardiac abnormalities are very common in lupus patients even when clinically asymptomatic. SLE is among systemic diseases most providers of heart disease. Echocardiography is an excellent non-invasive tool for cardiac evaluation. Their research must be systematic with echocardiography in order to reduce subsequent cardiac morbidity and mortality among the lupus patients.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Time of SS diagnostics depending on the first symptom.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
<th>Log-rank test (p)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>3 [1;8]</td>
<td>9.5 [2;17]</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>17 [6;22.5]</td>
<td>6.5 [2;11.5]</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salivary glands injury</td>
<td>11 [6;19.5]</td>
<td>4.5 [2;10]</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms of autoimmune diseases</td>
<td>4 [2;8]</td>
<td>10.5 [2;18]</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Presence of fever or symptoms of autoimmune diseases led to faster diagnostics of SS. Presence of salivary glands injury didn’t influence time of SS diagnostics while arthritis enlarged it (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Fever and signs of autoimmune diseases may be useful in diagnostics of SS. Greater alertness of symptoms of salivary glands injury is needed.

REFERENCES

Disclosure of Interests: None declared