Table: Patient and Disease Characteristics at Study Entry

Mean (SD) or%	CATCH (N=818)	CATCH-US (n=75)	p
Age, years	55 (15)	47 (16)	<0.001
Female,	72%	84%	0.028
Caucasian/White,	80%	76%	0.401
Education (High School or less)	42%	12%	<0.001
Symptom duration (months)	5.5 (2.9)	6.0 (3.3)	0.188
Seropositive (RF or ACPA),%	74%	77%	0.690
CDAI	28.0 (14.0)	14.4 (11.9)	<0.001
RA-FQ	26.7 (13.3)	16.0 (12.4)	<0.001

Figure 1. Mean RA-FQ and CDAI scores over 12-months Follow Up in Canadian and US Early Rheumatoid Arthritis Cohorts.

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AB1305

EVALUATION OF SERUM LEVELS OF ASC FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORING OF CRYOPYRIN ASSOCIATED PERIODIC SYNDROMES (CAPS)

Fortunata Carbone¹, Teresa Micillo², Luca Cantarini³, Maria Alessio², Alma Nunzia Olivieri⁴, Maria Francesca Gicchino⁴, Antonella Insalaco⁵, Maria Cristina Maggio⁶, Orso Maria Lucherini³, Roberto Scarpioni⁷, Matteo Piga⁸, Maria Maddalena Angioni⁹, Laura Obici⁹, Antonella Simpatico³, Pietro Leccese¹⁰, Rita Consolini¹¹, Raffaele Manna¹², Paolo Sfriso¹³, Sara Bindoli¹³, Paola Galozzi¹³, Ida Orlando³, Sabrina Chiesa¹⁴, Marco Gattorno¹⁴, Giuseppe Matarese^{1,15}. ¹Istituto per l'Endocrinologia e l'Oncologia Sperimentale-Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (IEOS-CNR), Napoli, Italy; ²Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II", Napoli, Italy; ³Università di Siena, Siena, Italy; ⁴Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", Napoli, Italy; ⁵IRCCS Ospedale Bambino Gesù, Roma, Italy; ⁶Ospedale dei Bambini "Di Cristina", Palermo, Italy; ⁷Ospedale AUSL "Guglielmo da Saliceto", Piacenza, Italy; ⁸Reumatologia, Policlinico Universitario, Cagliari, Italy; ⁹Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Pavia, Italy; ¹⁰Ospedale San Carlo, Potenza, Italy; ¹¹Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy; ¹²Policlinico Gemelli Università Cattolica, Roma, Italy; ¹³Department of Medicine, DIMED, University of Padova, Padova, Italy; ¹⁴IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini, Genova, Italy; ¹⁵Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II", Dipartimento di Medicina Molecolare e Biotecnologie Mediche, Napoli, Italy

Background: Dominantly gain-of-function mutations in the NLRP3 gene lead to Cryopyrin associated periodic syndromes (CAPS) characterized by constitutive activation of the inflammasome, increased secretion of interleukin (IL)-1beta and IL-18, and systemic inflammation. IL-1beta and active caspase-1 subunits are released in the serum together with the oligomeric particles of the adaptor ASC (apoptosis-associated Speck-like protein with a caspase-recruitment domain) after activation of the inflam-mosome complex and, as a consequence, patients with CAPS show an increased serum concentration of ASC+ particles.

Objectives: Patients suffering from CAPS are characterized by clinical manifestation similar to other autoinflammatory diseases. This phenomenon together with the lack of specific laboratory tests makes difficult the diagnosis of CAPS. In this context the development of a test for the evaluation of serum ASC levels could provide novel biomarkers facilitating early disease diagnosis and able to monitor treatment responses.

Methods: We analysed, with a novel ELISA assay, the levels of ASC particles in serum and plasma of normal subjects, CAPS patients and patients with autoimmune disorders (Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) and juvenile idiopathic arthritis), to confirm that ASC presence in the serum is not due to other chronic inflammatory processes characterizing autoimmunity. To evaluate the specificity of this biomarker in CAPS patients and not in individuals suffering from others inflammatory disorders, we also analysed sera from TNF receptor-associated periodic syndrome (TRAPS) patients.

Results: ASC particles were higher in untreated CAPS patients with respect to healthy controls and patients suffering from MS and T1D. This tendency was also evident in patients with arthritis and TRAPS even if the difference was not statistically significant due to the small number of samples. In addition after pharmacological treatment there is a tendency to be confirmed through a reduction of ASC levels in CAPS patients.

Conclusion: These data suggest that ELISA quantitation of ASC protein could represent a novel and additional strategy for the diagnosis and monitoring of CAPS.

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AB1306 PILOT STUDY OF ADHERENCE IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOLOGICAL DISEASES AUTOIMMUNE

E.C. Cervantes Pérez¹, Jose Ramón Maneiro Fernández¹, Begoña Moreira¹, José Antonio Mosquera Martínez², Natalia Bea¹, Susana Romero-Yuste¹. ¹Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de Pontevedra, Rheumatology Service, Pontevedra, Spain; ²Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de Pontevedra, Rheumatology Service, Pontevedra, Spain

Background: Data on adherence in patients with autoimmune rheumatological diseases are limited.

Objectives: To analyze the adherence to treatment in patients with autoimmune rheumatological diseases.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was performed in patients from the Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de Pontevedra with diagnosis of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Sjögren's Syndrome (SS) and Systemic Sclerosis (SE).

The patients filled an anonymous survey that included data about demographic, diagnosis and treatment. Adherence to treatment was assessed using the Spanish Compliance Questionnaire in Rheumatology (sCQR). [1] Likewise, a linear regression analysis was carried out in order to identify factors related to adherence to treatment. A significant value was considered as $p < 0.05$. Stata version 11.1 (Stata/IC 11.1 for Windows, StataCorp LP, College Station, TX) was used to perform all analyzes.

Results: A total of 44 patients participated in the study, although 90.9% of the surveys carried out could be used for the analysis. A total of 25 (62.5%) SLE, 9 (22.5%) SS and 6 (15.0%) SE patients participated. There were 82.5% of women and the mean age was 48.9 ± 12.8 (See Table 1). According to the sCQR 82.5% were compliant patients. None of the studied variables was associated with the adherence rate: sex ($p = 1.000$), age (0.134), time of evolution ($p = 1.000$), level of education ($p = 0.677$), marital status (0.392), illness ($p = 1.000$), number of drugs ingested per day ($p = 0.873$), treatment with steroids ($p = 0.679$) or anti-malarials ($p = 1.000$).

Conclusion: The adherence rate in our cohort was 82.5% higher than previously reported in other studies. [2,3] The sCQR could be a useful and easy-to-apply tool for the study of adherence in these patients.

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Table 1. Clinical and sociodemographic characteristics of the patients

	N=40		N=40
Age (years), mean, n (%)	48.9 ±12.8	Evolution, n (%)	
Sex (women), n (%)	40 (82.5)	• < 1 year	2 (5.0)
Marital status, n (%)		• 1-2 years	3 (7.5)
• Single	14 (35.0)	• 2-5 years	8 (20.0)
• Married	25 (62.0)	• > 5 years	27 (67.5)
• Widows/Widower	1 (2.5)	• Number of drugs ingested per day, n (%)	
Education, n (%)		• 1	9 (22.5)
• None	3 (7.5)	• 2	5 (12.5)
• Primary	13 (32.5)	• 3	11 (27.5)
• Secondary	10 (25.0)	• 4	4 (10.0)
• Superior/University	1 (2.5)	• 5	2 (5.0)
Occupation, n (%)		• >5	9 (22.5)
• Student	1 (2.5)	Treatments, n (%)	
• Unemployed	2 (10.0)	• Antimalarial	21 (52.5)
• Active	20 (50.0)	• Steroids	14 (35.0)
• Job loss	1 (2.5)	• Methotrexate	5 (12.5)
• Retirement	8 (20.0)	• Azathioprine	1 (2.5)

Diagnosis, n (%)	Rituximab	1 (2.5)
• SLE	25 (62.5)	
• SS	9 (22.5)	
• SE	6 (15.0)	

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AB1307 STUDY OF CONCORDANCE AND EQUIVALENCE AMONG BARTHEL, LAWTON, HAQ AND BASFI QUESTIONNAIRES IN RHEUMATOID AND SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Miguel Angel Belmonte Serrano, Antonio Lozano Saez, Arantxa Conesa, Maria Copovi Moya. *Hospital General Universitari de Castelló, Rheumatology, Castelló de la Plana, Spain*

Background: Assessment of functional capacity of patients is usually performed using disease-specific questionnaires for rheumatoid arthritis (HAQ) and for axial spondyloarthropathies (BASFI). However, frequently non disease-specific, general indexes such as Barthel and Lawton-Brody (LB) are used to establish disability in legal environments and in emergency rooms. Few studies have compared specific vs. generic questionnaires in rheumatic patients (1).

Objectives: To assess the equivalence between disability questionnaires of generic type, applicable to general population and various diseases (Barthel and LB), with specific questionnaires for rheumatic diseases (HAQ and BASFI).

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in consecutive outpatients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, spondyloarthropathies) in usual daily clinical practice in a rheumatology clinic of a tertiary hospital.

The patients self-completed the questionnaires (Barthel, LB, HAQ, and BASFI) in a single session. HAQ was only filled by peripheral arthritis patients, while BASFI was only given to spondyloarthropathy subjects. Scores were also computed for SDAI, DAS28 and BASDAI in most patients. Intraclass correlation was used to measure concordance between questionnaires.

Results: A total of 214 patients were studied. There was good correlation between the scores of the indexes studied, especially between the two general questionnaires ($R = 0.45$ $p < 0.01$). We observed a high ceiling effect in the scores of both Barthel, (70% of patients obtained values > 95 over a maximum of 100) and Lawton-Brody (60% had values > 23 over a maximum of 24) tests. The disease-specific questionnaires showed a less skewed distribution. The agreement between Barthel's and Lawton's tests was significant when measured by the intraclass correlation ($R = 0.48$ $p < 0.01$). However, we could not find any significant correlation between the generic questionnaires and the HAQ questionnaire or the BASFI ($R < 0.3$).

Conclusion: The Barthel and Lawton-Brody indices show an important ceiling effect in rheumatic patients, and seem to evaluate dimensions of health other than rheumatic questionnaires such as HAQ and BASFI, and thus they are not interchangeable. This point must be taken into account when performing medicolegal or emergency room assessments. Our result is in line with other previous studies(1)

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AB1308 FAILURE TO BIOLOGICAL THERAPY: WHEN TO EXPECT IT?

rim dhahri¹, Salma Athimni¹, Maroua Slouma¹, Leila Metoui¹, Imen Gharsallah¹, Bassem Louzir¹, Maroua Meddeb², Mahdi Dridi². ¹Military Hospital, rheumatology, Teboulbou, Tunisia; ²Military Hospital, pharmacology, Teboulbou, Tunisia

Background: Using Biologic agents, has considerably improved the treatment of inflammatory diseases. But it is associated to the capacity of inducing an immune response in patients that could result in unwanted adverse events or treatment failure.