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Reproductive issues in rheumatology

OP0326

DEVELOPMENT OF A STANDARDIZED MINIMAL CORE DATA SET FOR PREGNANCY REGISTERS IN RHEUMATOLOGY – RESULTS OF A EULAR TASK FORCE

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Background: Results from individual data collections on drug safety during pregnancy and outcomes of pregnancy in patients with inflammatory rheumatic diseases (IRD) are often limited due to small number of cases. Joint data analyses from different data sources could solve this problem.

Objectives: The aim of this EULAR task force was to define a core data set to facilitate joint analysis of pregnancy registers in rheumatology.

Methods: Scope and core areas of the core data set have been developed according to COS-STAD recommendations¹ by consensus. An initial list of data items possibly relevant for pregnancy registers was generated based on (I) a systematic literature search, (II) data items already collected by European pregnancy registers and (III) a survey amongst patient representatives. Consensus about the importance of each data item to be included in a core data set was reached by applying a 2-round Delphi survey where each item was rated on a numeric scale (1-3 = low importance, 4-6 = important but not critical, 7-9 = critical importance). Any data item that was considered as 'critical important' by at least 70% of responders in Delphi round 2 was included in the core set. During a face-to-face meeting of the EULAR task force, the inclusion or exclusion of data items with no consensus was finally decided.

Results: The scope was defined as follows: 'To develop a standardized core data set for data collection in prospective observational research and clinical care of pregnant women with IRD including the neonatal phase. All interventions the women receive will be covered. Patients should be enrolled at the earliest possible moment during pregnancy, and data should ideally be collected once every trimester. An additional visit should capture the neonatal phase'. Three core areas were described: 'Maternal information' (including demographics, IRD disease characteristics and comorbidities), 'Pregnancy' (including prior and current pregnancy(ies), delivery and neonatal outcomes) and 'Treatment' (including medication of IRD and other health conditions).

64 experts from 14 different European countries participated in the 2 rounds of Delphi (68% female; 84% physicians, 5% obstetricians, 5% epidemiologists, 3% patients, 3% midwives). Of the 148 data items, 85 were included in the final core set. The figure shows included items within the core areas.

| Maternal information | PREGNANCY | TREATMENT |
|---|--|--|
| Demographics Maternal age at conception Maternal body weight and height Maternal educational level and professional training Smoking and alcohol consumption during pregnancy | Prior pregnancy(ies) Number of prior pregnancy(ies) and parity Prior pre-eclampsia, eclampsia or HELLP syndrome Number of prior pregnancies (including spontaneous abortion, fetal death and stillbirth) Prior (premenstrual) PMS Prior neonatal death(s) Congenital malformation of prior born infant(s) | Treatment 12 months prior to conception DMARDs Oral glucocorticoid use Use of potentially teratogenic medication |
| IRD disease characteristics Diagnosis Fullness of classification criteria Disease duration Prior important IRD manifestations* Physician reported disease activity Disease activity estimated with appropriate scores Physician reported disease activity Flares during pregnancy Patient reported disease activity Patient reported global health Disease specific auto-antibodies and activity markers** | Current pregnancy Planned pregnancy Use of assisted reproduction Estimated date of conception Indication of singleton or multiple pregnancy Complications: antenatal hypertension, gestational diabetes and thrombotic events Pre-eclampsia, eclampsia or HELLP syndrome Intrauterine growth restriction | Treatment of IRD during pregnancy DMARDs use with name, dose and application interval, start and stop dates and reasons for stopping Oral glucocorticoid use with dose and application interval, start and stop dates Intra-articular glucocorticoid use with application date NSAID use with application date |
| Concomitancies and adverse events Selected concomitancies: rheumatological syndromes, Diabetes mellitus, Hypertension, Heart disease, thrombotic events Maternal serious adverse events† Maternal death with date and cause of death | Delivery/Outcome Live birth Effective termination with reasons and WGA Fetal loss with WGA Gestational age at birth Mode of delivery Birth (temperature/culture of membranes) Neonatal outcome Birth weight Gender Breastfeeding Congenital malformations, congenital heart block Chromosome abnormalities Hospital admission Neonatal death | Treatment of other health conditions during pregnancy Use of folic acid, antithrombotic drugs, aspirin, heparin or other anticoagulants |

Abbreviations: DMARDs: disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs; IRD: inflammatory rheumatic disease; NSAIDs: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; PMS: premenstrual syndrome; *The EULAR task force has not reached consensus on disease specific auto-antibodies and markers including activity, level of severity or information of the disease in a consensus comparison of 52 patients

Conclusion: The consensus process resulted in an extensive list of data items recommended by experts to be collected as a minimum by pregnancy registers in rheumatology. This core data set applies to all pregnant women irrespective of the

underlying IRD. The EULAR task force plans to find consensus on additional disease specific advice.

REFERENCE:

[1] Kirkham et. al. PLoS med.2017;14(11):e1002447.

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The future of therapeutic strategies

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FECAL MICROBIOTA TRANSPLANTATION IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED RANDOMIZED PILOT TRIAL

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Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a progressive, multi organ, autoimmune disease marked by frequent and severe gastrointestinal (GI) afflictions and gut dysbiosis.

Objectives: Determine the safety and efficacy of fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) using commercially-available anaerobic cultivated human intestinal microbiota (ACHIM) in patients with SSc.

Methods: The trial was a single-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled 16-week pilot of FMT by gastroduodenoscopy of ACHIM in SSc conducted at Oslo University Hospital. Primary endpoints were safety and clinical efficacy on GI symptoms assessed at weeks 4 and 16. Safety was assessed by observation, interviews and standardized safety form. Efficacy on GI symptoms was measured using the UCLA GIT 2.0 score questionnaire. Patients were defined as responders if reported symptom improvement was equivalent to the UCLA GIT definition of "minimally clinically important difference". Secondary and explorative endpoints included changes in relative abundance of total, immunoglobulin (Ig)A- and IgM-coated fecal bacteria measured by 16s rRNA sequencing; changes in modified Rodnan skin score, lung function, CRP, ESR, and patient and physician global. Descriptive statistics were applied for clinical endpoints and linear mixed models for microbial analysis.

Results: Ten patients with limited cutaneous SSc randomized to ACHIM (n=5) or placebo (n=5) were included. All patients were female with clinical apparent GI symptoms, mean age of 62 years and mean time from diagnosis of 12 yrs. Two placebo controls experienced procedure-related serious adverse events; one developed laryngospasms at first gastroduodenoscopy necessitating study exclusion, one duodenal perforation at final gastroduodenoscopy. Improvement in total GIT score was reported by 3/5 FMT patients compared to 2/4 placebo controls at weeks 4 and 16 (Figure 1). FMT effects were most pronounced on lower GI symptoms, with improvement reported by 5/5 FMT patients with diarrhea, distention/bloating and/or fecal incontinence at baseline compared to 2/4 placebo controls (Figure). Clinical secondary endpoints showed no differences and other side effects (stomach discomfort, bloating and diarrhea) were mild and transient. Fecal microbiota diversity (observed number of operational taxonomic units) was increased after FMT compared to placebo treatment at week 16 (p<0.006). Moreover, abundant bacterial genera in ACHIM were present within the total, and IgA- and IgM-coated fecal bacteria at both week 4 and 16 in the FMT group (Figure 2) but not in the placebo controls.