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ARTERIAL AND VENOUS THROMBOTIC EVENTS IN IGG4-RELATED DISEASE: A NATIONAL OBSERVATIONAL RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Background: IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD) is a fibro-inflammatory disorder that can affect virtually every organ. Although arterial involvements have been reported, no studies have examined the occurrence of arterial or venous thrombotic events in these patients.

Objectives: To explore the frequency, the characteristics, and risk factors of arterial and venous thrombotic events in IgG4-related disease patients.

Methods: An observational, descriptive, retrospective study was conducted from a multicentric national case registry for IgG4-RD. Patients fulfilled the Comprehensive Diagnostic Criteria (CDC) for IgG4-RD, and all patients with arterial or venous thrombotic events confirmed by imaging during follow-up were analyzed. Clinical, radiological, biological, histological and therapeutic characteristics were retrospectively collected using a standardized online data sheet. Results obtained in patients with thrombosis were compared to those without thrombosis.

Results: One hundred eighty-nine patients with IgG4-RD (135 men/54 women, median age 61 years) were included. During a 12-months median follow-up, one or more arterial thrombotic events occurred in 10 patients and venous thrombotic events in 16 (5.3 and 8.5 events/100 patient-years, respectively).

Arterial complications (coronary artery disease n=5, lower limb peripheral arterial disease n=2, mesenteric ischemia, transient ischemic attack, and carotid thrombosis: n=1) occurred on average 30 months [0-140] after the first symptoms of IgG4-RD. They were inaugural in 2 patients without any cardiovascular risk factor, and associated with IgG4-RD arterial involvement in 3 (coronary aneurysms n=2, leg arteritis n=1). Among patients with arterial thrombosis, 60% had systemic involvement (≥ 3 organs involved), 89% elevated serum IgG4 (> 3 N in 56%), and 57% CRP > 10 mg/l. Only 5/10 were treated with steroids at the time of arterial complication, and 4 had never been exposed to steroid therapy. Renal involvement was associated with the occurrence of an arterial thrombotic event ($p = 0.03$).

Venous thromboembolic complications (deep venous thrombosis (DVT) n=12, pulmonary embolism n=4) occurred on average 24 months [0-164] after the first symptoms of IgG4-RD, but were inaugural in 6 patients. Usual venous thrombosis risk factors were found in only 3/16. Seven patients had retroperitoneal fibrosis (RPF), 2 had mediastinal fibrosis, 60% had localized IgG4-RD (≤ 2 organs involved), serum IgG4 level was normal in 67% and CRP < 10 mg/l in 79%. Nine patients were on steroids at the time of venous thrombosis. RPF was more frequent in the group of IgG4-RD patients with a venous thrombotic event ($p = 0.05$), and largely associated with DVT in a multivariate analysis (OR=8.36 [2.25-35.93], $p = 0.002$).

Conclusion: Arterial and venous thrombotic complications are common in IgG4-RD patients. While arterial events are associated with multorgan involvement and elevated serum IgG4, venous thrombotic complications appear to affect more likely patients with compressive localized forms of the disease, such as RPF. Mechanisms responsible for this over-risk and clinical benefit of a preventive platelet antiaggregant or anticoagulant treatment in high risk of thrombosis subgroups remain to be evaluated.

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NERVE GROWTH FACTOR, SCLEROSTIN AND DKK-1 SERUM LEVELS IN COMPLEX REGIONAL PAIN SYNDROME1 (CRPS-1): A PILOT STUDY ON 41 PATIENTS

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Background: Pain is the hallmark of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS). Nerve growth factor (NGF), widely known as pain mediator, is

increased in the affected skin¹ and in tibia bone of rat models of CRPS, while is lowered by administration of anti-NGF antibodies². CRPS usually develops after limb trauma, most frequently a fracture³. Some reports considered bone as a main player in CRPS pathogenesis, hypnotizing that sclerostin (SOST)⁴ and Dickkopf-related protein-1 (DKK-1) may be involved in CRPS pathogenesis.

Objectives: To evaluate NGF, SOST, and DKK-1 serum levels from affected arm of CRPS patients and compare them with unaffected one and healthy controls (HCs).

Methods: Adults patients affected by CRPS diagnosed according to IASP criteria at upper limb were consecutively enrolled from April 2017 to August 2018. Patients with prior treatment with bisphosphonates, and history of disorders of mineral metabolism were excluded. Sera from the basilica vein of affected and unaffected arm of CRPS patients were collected, as well as sera from HCs paired for age and sex. NGF, SOST, and DKK-1 concentrations were determined by ELISA kit. Comparisons between patients and HCs were performed by Student test, while comparison between affected and unaffected arms were performed with Wilcoxon test for paired data. Pearson correlation was used to correlate NGF, SOST, and DKK-1 levels with demographic and clinical variables.

Results: The overall population included 41 patients: males (M) 21.9%, mean age at diagnosis [$\pm$ standard deviation, SD] 61.9 $\pm$ 8.4 yrs, median disease duration 67 days (inter quartile range (IQR) 14.0; 22.5), 39 (95.2%) experienced a fracture as inciting event, mean VAS pain score (0-100) 54.8 $\pm$ 18.6 mm. Mean NGF levels (pg/mL) were 12.0 $\pm$ 28.8 and 11.4 $\pm$ 35.5 in the affected and unaffected side, respectively, and 13.5 $\pm$ 55.0 in HCs. NGF was undetectable in most patients; no statistical significant differences of NGF levels were found between patients and HCs. Mean SOST levels (pmol/L) were 32.6 $\pm$ 16.1, 29.8 $\pm$ 17.7, and 34.0 $\pm$ 13.3 in affected, unaffected arm, and in HCs, respectively. No statistical significant differences of SOST levels were found between patients and HCs, while a significant difference was found between affected and unaffected arms ($p=0.03$). Mean DKK-1 levels (pmol/L) were higher in affected arm (31.2 $\pm$ 29.5) than in unaffected one (29.3 $\pm$ 28.6) or in HCs (27.5 $\pm$ 18.2) without reaching statistical significance. NGF was significantly correlated with VAS pain score ($p=0.04$).

Conclusion: To our best knowledge, this is the first study to evaluate NGF, SOST, and DKK-1 levels in adults affected by CRPS-1. SOST levels were significantly higher in affected arms compared to unaffected ones, suggesting a possible role of this bone mediator in CRPS pathogenesis. NGF was consistent with the expression of pain, through VAS pain score. Further studies need to clarify these preliminary findings.

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ADULT-ONSET STILL'S DISEASE PROGNOSIS SCORE. CLINICAL PATTERNS, COMPLICATIONS AND BIOLOGIC TREATMENT

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Background: Adult-onset Still's disease (AOSD) is an uncommon disease with an unpredictable clinical course and variable prognosis. Sometimes, it requires biologic treatment in early phases. A prognosis score has been described, which has never been applied in a Spanish case series.

Objectives: To apply the prognosis score described by Pouchot et al (Systemic Score System (SSS)) on a 64 cases series diagnosed with AOSD in Spanish population and to determine if SSS high values registered at the onset of the pathology are related to AOSD clinical patterns (monocyclic, polycyclic and chronic course), requirement of biologic treatment along the disease's course and development of AOSD clinical

complications. To establish the relationship between its value and the AOSD-related mortality.

Methods: Retrospective study realized in two University Hospitals. Clinical, laboratory, AOSD-related complications data, administered biologic treatments and number of deaths (AOSD related or not) were recorded. Each patient was characterized for the presence of AOSD-related complications such as macrophage activation syndrome (MAS), myocarditis, lung involvement (pulmonary hypertension, interstitial infiltrate), renal involvement (tubulointerstitial nephritis, acute renal failure), secondary amyloidosis and AOSD-related death. SSS was applied at the onset of the disease development, assigning a point to each of the next 12 variables: fever, exanthema, pleuritis, pneumonitis, pericarditis, alteration of liver tests or hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, lymphadenopathy, odynophagia, leukocytosis $>15,000/\text{mm}^3$, myalgia and abdominal pain. A ≥ 7 score has been validated on other populations as the one which identifies the patients with high risk of complications. The relationship between SSS value and the next parameters was determined: clinical course, complications, biologic treatments administered and AOSD-related mortality.

Results: Data from 64 patients was analyzed (40,6% men, mean age 37 years). SSS values of <7 were obtained in 50 patients (78,3%) and of ≥ 7 in 14 patients (21,7%). MAS and renal involvement were significantly related with a score of ≥ 7 (Table 1). Lung involvement, myocarditis and secondary amyloidosis were not significantly associated with a high SSS value. Even so, analyzing each case, it was found that individually they had a score of ≥ 7 (except for lung involvement). Biologic treatment requirement along the disease course was related to SSS ≥ 7 . Moreover, SSS value was not related to the different clinical patterns or the not-related-AOSD deaths. It was not possible to determine the relationship between the score and the AOSD complications-related deaths due to having only two registered cases. Despite this, it was found that individually both had a SSS of ≥ 7 .

TABLE 1. AOSD RELATED COMPLICATIONS

COMPLICATIONS	SSS <7 N= 50	SSS ≥ 7 N= 14	P-Value
MAS	2	3	<0.05
Myocarditis	0	1	0,500
Lung involvement	1	1	0,920
Renal involvement	0	3	<0.05
Secondary amyloidosis	0	2	0,06
Biologic treatment	14	10	<0.05
All-cause deaths	3	2	0,970

Conclusion: The prognosis score described by *Pouchot et al* could be useful to identify those patients with high risk of developing clinical complications and those who will need biologic treatment along the course of their disease. It is necessary a higher number of patients to determine if the score could be useful to estimate the death risk related to AOSD complications.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF A BEHÇET'S DIAGNOSIS ON DISEASE ACTIVITY PERCEPTION- A PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

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Background: There is a pressing need to understand more about the psychological experience in patients with Behçet's Disease (BD). The presence of poor wellbeing, low mood and anxiety may affect the ability to both manage and cope with this complex disorder and also impact upon the perception and experience of disease activity^{1,2,3}.

Objectives: Our aim was to investigate the relationship between patient rating of disease activity and their psychological experience (anxiety, low mood, illness perception and coping style) in a UK Centre of Excellence for BD.

Methods: This study had full UK research ethics approval.

A 12-month prospective observational study of a cohort of patients diagnosed with BD according to the International Criteria for BD (ICBD) under surveillance in the BD Centre of Excellence Liverpool, UK. All patients that agreed to a psychological evaluation were included. Participants were described for demographics and clinical presentation. BD Current Activity Form 2006 and a clinician's and patient's visual analogue scale (VAS) were recorded. Participants completed validated self-reported measures: Brief COPE, IPQ-R, PHQ-9, GAD-7 and WEMWBS. Spearman Rank correlations, multivariate regression analysis and mediation analysis were used to investigate the relationship between patient perception of disease activity, coping mechanisms and mood. For data analysis Excel and SPSS were used.

Results: 86 patients were selected (24 males, 68 females; mean age at time of evaluation 43.58 years ± 11.8 SD; mean disease duration 9.76years ± 10.01). The correlation between Clinician's VAS and Patient's VAS was strong 0.754 ($p < 0.005$). Strong correlations were also observed between Patient's VAS and low mood (PHQ-9) $r = 0.533$ ($p < 0.005$), anxiety (GAD-7) $r = 0.433$ ($p < 0.05$), illness perception- emotional representation (IPQ-R) $r = 0.377$ ($p < 0.05$) and emotion-focused coping (COPE) $r = 0.320$ ($p < 0.05$).

The results of the mediation analysis indicated that patient's perception of disease activity was a significant predictor for Dysfunctional Coping Strategies ($b = 1.5$, $se = 0.57$, $p < 0.05$). Dysfunctional Coping Strategies had a mediating impact on the relationship between patient perception of disease activity (VAS) and mood 0.645 (CE: 0.68-1.389).

Conclusion: Psychological experience plays an important part in the patient evaluation and experience of disease activity. Patient coping strategies and psychological representation of illness experience influence their perception of disease activity and their mood. This highlights the need of patients for psychological support and for improving coping mechanisms in order to obtain a better disease control and a higher quality of life.

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