ADHERENCE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN DIET AND RISK OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN THE FRENCH PROSPECTIVE E3N COHORT STUDY

Vann Nguyen1,2, Carine Saliot1,2, Amandine Gelot1, Juliette Gambaretti1, Xavier Marette2,3, Marie-Christine Bouton-Ruault1, Raphaelle Seror1,4. 1Center for Research in Epidemiology and Population Health – INSERM U1018 – Université Paris-Saclay – Université Paris Sud, Villejuif, France; 2AP-HP Hôpital Bicêtre, Rheumatology, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France; 3Centre Hospitalier Régional d'Orléans, Rheumatology, Orléans, France; 4Université Paris-Sud, Center for Immunology of Viral Infections and Auto-immune Diseases (IMVA), INSERM UMR 1184, Université Paris-Saclay, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France

Background: The Mediterranean diet (MD), widespread in Southern European countries, mainly consists of olive oil, cereal products, fresh or dried fruit and vegetables, nuts, a moderate amount of dairy and meat, and many condiments and spices. It has been associated with significant reduction of overall mortality, cardiovascular diseases, and neoplastic diseases. It has been suggested to have a beneficial effect on rheumatoid arthritis (RA) activity due to its richness in antioxidants and unsaturated fatty acids. However, data on MD as a prevention of RA are limited.

Objectives: To assess the association between adherence to MD and risk of RA in a general population cohort.

Methods: The E3N cohort study (Etude Épidémiologique auprès des femmes de la Mutuelle générale de l’Education Nationale) is a French prospective cohort of 98,995 healthy women included in 1990-91 and followed since then (median follow-up of 28 years). Among women who completed a food-frequency questionnaire, we calculated the modified MD score (from 0 to 9) according to the consumption status of nine food components. Incident RA cases were detected using a validation process using a specific validation questionnaire and a drug reimbursement database. Hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for incident RA were estimated using Cox proportional hazards models and adjusting for known risk factors of RA and potential confounders. Because of the known importance of smoking on RA risk, we performed analyses adjusted and stratified on the smoking status.

Results: Among 62,630 women, 480 incident RA cases were diagnosed after a mean (± standard deviation) of 11.7 (± 5.9) years after the food-frequency questionnaire. In the whole population, high adherence to MD was associated with a decreased risk of RA (HR for a 6-9 vs. 0-3 score = 0.86, 95% CI: 0.68-1.09, P_linear trend = 0.11). However, among ever-smoking women (current or past smokers), high adherence to MD was associated with a decreased risk of RA (HR for a 6-9 vs. 0-3 score = 0.77, 95% CI: 0.53-1.05, P_linear trend = 0.025), while there was no association in non-smokers (HR for a 6-9 vs. 0-3 score = 0.98, 95% CI: 0.70-1.38, P_linear trend = 0.90).

P 95% CI) for RA according to the MD score

HR Score [0-3] [4-5] [6-9]
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All population N=62,630
Cases of person-years, no. 152/372,306 211/575,893 118/325,196
Age adjusted 1 0.89 (0.72-1.10) 0.86 (0.68-1.09) 0.11
Multivariate* 1 0.89 (0.72-1.10) 0.86 (0.67-1.10) 0.1098
Ever smokers (N = 29,072)
Cases of person-years, no. 73/165,745 101/270,722 57/154,709
Age adjusted 0.78 (0.59-1.04) 0.74 (0.53-1.05) 0.0247
Multivariate* 1 0.79 (0.58-1.06) 0.77 (0.54-1.09) 0.0444
Non smokers (N = 33,558)
Cases of person-years, no. 73/206,562 110/305,171 61/170,488
Age adjusted 1 1.01 (0.75-1.36) 0.98 (0.70-1.38) 0.9011
Multivariate* 1 0.99 (0.74-1.34) 0.96 (0.68-1.35) 0.7725

*HRs were adjusted for age, educational level, body mass index, smoking status, passive smoking during childhood, energy intake, physical activity, gastrointestinal transit.

Conclusion: High adherence to a MD could reduce RA risk in ever-smoking women. Further studies are needed to confirm our findings.

Acknowledgement: We would like to thank the Foundation for Research in Rheumatology (FORUM) and the French Rheumatology Society (SFR) for their financial support.

Disclosure of Interests: Yann Nguyen: None declared, Carine Saliot: None declared, Amandine Gelot: None declared, Juliette Gambaretti: None declared, Xavier Marette Grant/research support from: Servier, Consultant for: AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Pfizer, UCBJ Pharma, Marie-Christine Bouton-Ruault: None declared, Raphaelle Seror: None declared.


ANTIPYRIDYL-ARGININE DEIMINASE 3 AND 4 AUTOANTIBODIES IN A COHORT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

Boaz Palterer1, Gianfranco Vitello1, Bernardo D’Onofrio1, Emanuele Vivarelli1, Daniele Cammelli2, Maria Grazia Giudici3, Laura Martiniz-Prat4, Silvia Casas2, Chelsea Bentow2, Michael Mahler2, Paola Paroncini1, Maria Grazia Giudici1, Laura Martiniz-Prat4, Silvia Casas2, Chelsea Bentow2, Michael Mahler2, Paola Paroncini1, University of Florence, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Firenze, Italy; 2Inova Diagnostics, Inc., San Diego, United States of America

Background: Intestinal lung disease (ILD) affects up to 30% of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Peptidyl-arginine deiminases (PAD) are key enzymes in RA pathogenesis as they are involved in the citrullination of proteins, targets of anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA). Although RA-ILD significantly contributes to disease burden including mortality, diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers are still lacking.

Objectives: To measure anti-PAD3 and anti-PAD4 antibodies in a cohort of RA and compare their prevalence in patients with and without ILD. To assess the associations of anti-PAD3, anti-PAD4 and ACPA with disease activity, joint erosions, lung involvement and smoking history.

Methods: A total of 71 patients fulfilling the 2010 ACR/EULAR RA Classification Criteria were recruited; the mean age was 63.3±12.4 and 87% of them were females, 11 (15.5%) of them had been diagnosed with ILD. Demographic, clinical as well as radiological data were retrospectively collected. ILD was defined as usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP), non-specific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) or indeterminate patterns on chest high-resolution computed tomography, according to ATS/ERS guidelines. Particle-based Multi-Analyte Technology (PMAT) (Inova Diagnostics, USA, research use only) was used to measure anti-PAD3 and anti-PAD4 autoantibodies. ACPA IgG were measured by chemiluminescence (QUANTA Flash CCP3, Inova Diagnostics, USA).

Results: Anti-PAD4 levels were correlated with erosive disease (p=0.043) and morning stiffness (p=0.031). Anti-PAD3 and anti-PAD4 levels were associated with DAS28-ESR at the time of sampling (anti-PAD3, r=0.34, p=0.004; anti-PAD4, r=0.34, p=0.004). Anti-PAD4 antibodies were significantly lower in patients with ILD (p=0.043). There was no association between anti-PAD4 and smoking, while anti-PAD3 antibodies were higher in non-smokers (p=0.004). A strong correlation was found between anti-PAD3 and anti-PAD4 levels (r=0.73, p<0.0005).

Conclusion: In our cohort, anti-PAD4 antibodies were correlated with joint erosions and RA disease activity, whereas a negative association with ILD was found. Smoking history was not associated with the presence and levels of anti-PAD antibodies. Our data validate the usefulness of anti-PAD4 antibodies as a biomarker for erosive disease. Further studies that take into account relevant confounders like therapy and larger RA-ILD cohorts are needed.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: Boaz Palterer: None declared, Gianfranco Vitello: None declared, Bernardo D’Onofrio: None declared, Emanuele Vivarelli: None declared, Daniele Cammelli: None declared, Maria Grazia Giudici: None declared, Laura Martiniz-Prat Employee of: Inova Diagnostics (Not pharmaceutical, diagnostics company), Silvia Casas Employee of: Inova Diagnostics, Chelsea Bentow Employee of: Inova Diagnostics, Michael Mahler Employee of: Inova Diagnostics (Not pharmaceutical, diagnostics company), Paola Paroncini: None declared.


SIXUAL FUNCTION AND REPRODUCTION CAN BE IMPAIRED IN MEN WITH RHEUMATOID DISEASES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Luis Fernando Perez1, Bernike Te Winke1, Juan Pablo Carrales-Luna2, Wichor Bramer3, Saskia Vorstenbosch2, Eugène van Puijenbroek7, Johanne Hzes1, Radboud Dohain1, Erasmus Medical Center, Rheumatology, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 2Netherlands Pharmacovigilance Centre Lareb; 3Hertogenbosch, Netherlands; 4University Hospital Dr José Eleuterio Gonzalez, Rheumatology, Monterrey, Mexico; 5Erasmus Medical Center, Library, Rotterdam, Netherlands; 6Groningen Research Institute of Pharmacy, University of Groningen, PharmacoTherapy, -Epidemiology and-economics, Groningen, Netherlands

Background: Sexual function and reproduction are important aspects of quality of life for the majority of men (1,2). In the last decade inflammation has been associated with male factor infertility and sexual dysfunction (3,4). Because many patients with rheumatic diseases have a