patient and physician satisfaction and greater overall work impairment compared with non-flaring patients. There is a need for more effective treatments in this patient population to reduce patient and healthcare burden.

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SAT0214 ULTRASONOGRAPHIC CHANGES OF SALIVARY GLANDS IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME: A LONGITUDINAL PROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Background: In the diagnosis of primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS), salivary gland ultrasound is useful tool. Until now, there is no data for ultrasonographic changes of major salivary glands over time.

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the changes in abnormalities of salivary gland ultrasound (SGUS) over time in patients with pSS.

Methods: Patients with pSS (n=70) and idiopathic sicca syndrome (n=18) underwent SGUS twice at baseline and 2 years later. The semi-quantitative SGUS score (0-48) was used, which comprises five parameters: parenchymal echogenicity, homogeneity, hypoechoic areas, hyperechogenic reflections, and clearness of posterior borders. The intraglandular power Doppler signal (PDS) was also assessed. Changes of these SGUS variables were compared in patients with pSS and idiopathic sicca syndrome.

Results: The median (interquartile range) total SGUS scores at baseline was 27 (14) in patients with pSS and 43 (26) in those with idiopathic sicca syndrome (p<0.001). In the pSS group, the total SGUS scores and the SGUS scores for bilateral parotid glands were significantly increased during median 23.4 month follow-up (p=0.013 and p=0.011, respectively). Homogeneity and hypoechoic areas were the domain to show statistically significant progression of SGUS scores. None of the SGUS scores changed significantly in the patients with idiopathic sicca syndrome. In patients with pSS, baseline and follow-up PDS sum scores of four salivary glands were significantly higher in worsening SGUS group (n=13) than no change/improvement SGUS group (n=55).

Conclusion: The structural abnormalities in major salivary glands assessed using SGUS scores progressed significantly in patients with pSS. In pSS group, 16.6% patients had worsening SGUS scores during 2 years. Intra-glandular hypervascularity was associated with worsening of salivary gland abnormalities.

References:

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SAT0215 HISTORY OF TONSILLITIS IS ASSOCIATED WITH GLANDULAR INFLAMMATION IN SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME

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Background: The palatine tonsils are secondary lymphoid-organs that serve as the first line of defense against pathogens. Whether history of tonsilllectomy (TE) is associated with the phenotype of Sjögren’s syndrome (SjS) has not been investigated to date.

Objectives: To test whether TE is linked to SjS phenotype and disease activity scores.

Methods: A total of 183 patients from the Optimising Assessment in Sjögren’s Syndrome (OASIS) cohort with SjS or non-SjS sicca syndrome were analysed. Patients with SjS fulfilled 2016 ACR/EULAR classification for primary SjS; sicca patients had objective and/or subjective dryness, but were anti-Ro/SSA negative and had no physician diagnosis of SjS. One SjS patient who had TE around the time of symptom onset was excluded.

Results: Of the total cohort, 116 were diagnosed with SjS (86.2% SSA/Ro positive) and 67 with non-SjS sicca syndrome. Overall, 29% (53/183) had TE; 24.1% (42/175) patients (28/116) and 33.3% of the sicca patients (25/77). The median age of TE was 8 (range 3-50) years and did not differ between SjS and sicca patients (p=0.629).

Neither age at first symptoms (p=0.093) nor disease duration (p=0.623) were associated with TE in patients with SjS. SjS patients with TE showed a higher average histological focus score (2.1 (1.2-2.8) vs. 1.3 (0.6-4.3); p=0.049), and were more likely to have activity in the glandular (33.6 vs. 20.5%; p=0.001) and constitutional (39.3 vs. 14.9%; p=0.014) domains of the ESSDAI, and lower levels of IgG (12.2 (7.36-5.6) vs. 15.6 (5.7-54.6) g/l; p=0.012) and IgA (2.9 (0.9-6.6) vs. 2.9 (0.7-4.9) g/l; p=0.032). Whereas there was no difference in EQSD utility values ( p=0.718), VAS global health was significantly lower in the patients with SjS who had TE (58 (10-78) vs. 70 (10-97); p=0.021). There was no association between the status of TE and autoantibodies (SSA, SSB, RF), lachrymal and salivary glands function (Schirmer’s test, unstimulated saliva flow), complement (C3, C4), serum levels of free light chains, IgG, IgM, IgA and IgD, or proportion of γδ T-cells (p=0.605).

Conclusion: History of TE in SjS is associated with higher average focus scores and with glandular swelling. It can be speculated that the absence of palatine tonsils is compensated by enhanced lymphoctic infiltrates in the salivary glands.

Further research is required to determine if TE is a risk factor for both SjS and non-SjS sicca and to determine the role of the tonsils in the generation of hyper-gammaglobulinemia in SjS.

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SAT0216 DISEASE SEVERITY, COMORBID CONDITIONS, TREATMENT PATTERNS, AND FLARES IN ADULTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: A REAL-WORLD OBSERVATIONAL RETROSPECTIVE COHORT ANALYSIS


Background: There is limited real-world evidence describing the presentation and treatment patterns of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in the United Kingdom (UK).

Objectives: To characterize disease severity, comorbid conditions, treatment patterns, and flares in a longitudinal cohort of adults with SLE in the UK.

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