Background: Valid assessment of disease activity leads to outcome improvement in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (1). Optical spectral transmission (OST) is a modern diagnostic tool able to assess the blood-specific absorption of light transmitted through a tissue, promising quantification of inflammation in the finger and wrist joints of RA patients (commercial device: HandScan - Hemics, The Netherlands) (2).

Objectives: To our knowledge, there are no data regarding the diagnostic value of OST in the evaluation of inflammatory activity changes during arthritis follow up. Thus, aims of this study were to examine the ability of OST to detect response to anti-inflammatory therapy in patients with arthritis and to explore OST associations with clinical, laboratory and ultrasonographic (US) activity markers.

Methods: OST measurements were performed in patients with active arthritides of the wrist and finger joints before and after administration of glucocorticoids (GC), during a disease flare. For the same points in time (a and b) patients and healthy controls underwent clinical, laboratory and joint US [Grey Scale (GSUS) - Power Doppler (PDUS)] examinations. OST-values before and after therapy were subsequently compared with their corresponding DAS28- and US-values. The distributions of Delta-PDUS and OST-values between the two time points were compared by Bayesian statistics. Moreover, OST diagnostic performance was tested by Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC).

Results: We recruited 54 patients with active inflammatory arthritis: 39 RA, 4 gout, 7 peripheral spondylarthritides and 4 other miscellaneous arthritides (66.7% females) and 114 controls. Previous to therapy with GC, median OST was [OST(a): 8.75 (5.58-16.25, IQR)] and after therapy [OST(b): 4.75 (2.38-8.63, IQR)] (p<0.05). Similarly, DAS28 dropped significantly after GC therapy [DAS28(a): 5.12 (4.33-6.10, IQR vs. DAS28(b): 3.85 (3.40-4.82), p<0.05)]. OST correlated moderately with PDUS at both time points: (a) rho=0.449 and (b) rho=0.414, respectively (both: p<0.01). Moreover, OST correlated significantly with swollen joint count at both time points (a) rho=0.379 and (b) rho=0.382, p<0.01 respectively.

OST and US performed similarly in the assessment of inflammatory changes caused by the administration of GC (same tendency in the change of OST values in 83.2% of the cases). Furthermore, Bayesian statistic revealed no significant differences between OST and US for all 3 examined joint categories (MCP: p=0.81;PIP: p=0.74; wrists: p=0.80).

In addition, ROC revealed that OST is a very good tool to distinguish patients with arthritis from healthy controls at both examination points: Area Under the Curve (AUC): [AUC(a): 0.883 (95% CI:0.83-0.94) and AUC(b): 0.871 (95% CI:0.74-0.91)].

Conclusion: OST was able to assess response to therapy in arthritis patients comparable to US. Moreover, OST correlated with disease activity markers and could effectively differentiate between arthritis patients and controls. Therefore, OST could prove to be a valuable non-interventional time- and resource-saving diagnostic tool to assist arthritis monitoring.

References:
functionality are measured with VAS pain scale, Womac, Lysholm and SF 36 score. The agreement between two methods was evaluated with Bland-Altman analysis.

Results: We found a statistically significant low level of rank correlation between CR and US measurements of mean cartilage thickness; ρ (rho) values between modalities were low (0.263 and 0.273 depending on side (right/left), p<0.005 and p=0.007 respectively). In Bland – Altman analysis, US measurement showed bad agreement with CR. Presence or absence of US features of OA (effusion, synovial hypertrophy, osteophytes and popliteal cysts) didn’t influence on cartilage thickness assessed by US (p<0.05). For US assessment, we found correlation only between US and VAS pain scale (ρ (rho) -0.281, p=0.004).

We didn’t find any statistically significant correlation between CR thickness measures and pain/functionality/HRQoL scores (p>0.05).

Conclusion: These results suggest that ultrasound may be a useful clinical tool to assess relative cartilage thickness. However, the absolute validity of the ultrasound measure is called into question due to the larger CR-based thickness measures and low level of agreement according to Bland-Altman analysis. The use of ultrasound as a complementary imaging tool along with CR may enable more accurate and cost-effective detection, prognosis and follow-up of knee osteoarthritis in routine clinical practice.

References:

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Epidemiology, risk factors for disease or disease progression

TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION IN MOROCCAN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC DISEASES UNDER BIOLOGIC THERAPY: A MULTICENTER NATIONAL STUDY

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Background: Tuberculosis (TB) is a major health problem worldwide, occurring mainly in low-income countries. Therefore, screening for latent TB infection (LTBI) before initiating biologic therapy is mandated by current guidelines.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of tuberculosis infection (TB) in Moroccan patients with rheumatic diseases under biologic therapy, and to describe the demographic characteristics of these patients as well as to explore potential risk factors.

Methods: This fourteen-year nationally representative multicenter study enrolled Moroccan patients with rheumatic diseases who had been treated with biologic therapy. Patient medical records were reviewed retrospectively for demographic characteristics, underlying rheumatic diseases, associated co-morbidities, and TB-related data.

Results: In total, 1407 eligible patients were studied; 31 cases with active TB were identified at an estimated prevalence rate of 2.3%. The mean age was 878.3; p=0.022), smoking (OR, 3.941; 95% CI, 1-159.9; p=0.047) and long biologic therapy duration (OR, 1,991; 95% CI, 1,4-16,3; p=0.001) were identified as risk factors for developing active TB.

Conclusion: Moroccan patients with rheumatic diseases under anti TNF-α agents are at an increased TB risk especially when risk factors are present. Strict initial screening and regular monitoring of LTBI is recommended for patients living in high TB prevalence areas.

SAT0574 RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH OPIOID USE AMONG WORKER’S COMPENSATION: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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Background: To increase recovery and return to work after an occupational accident or injury, a worker’s compensation claim provides individualised management plan involving multiple kinds of treatment. These plans can consist of the prescription of opioids to reduce inflammation, provide pain relief and increase functionality within a short period of time to aid return to work. Recently, there have been growing concerns about the misuse of opioids in managing pain symptoms by both the insurance industry and the general community. Studies from North America have indicated the prescription and management of opioid consumption among workers compensation claimants can cause more harm to functionality and reduce recovery to return to work, often leading to misuse, dependence or overdosing (Dembe, Wickizer, Sieck, Partridge & Balchick 2012).

Objectives: The aims of this abstract are to provide a comprehensive literature review of the studies that have examined: 1) the prevalence of opioid use among worker compensation claimants and, 2) identify predictors of long-term opioid use among the workers compensation claimants.

Methods: A search strategy, with terms associated with “worker compensation,” “opioids” “prevalence” and/or “risk factors” were used to search through relevant databases such as CINAHL, Cochrane, MEDLINE, PsychINFO, Scopus and Web of Science from database inception to January 2020. Duplicates were excluded. Two researchers reviewed, screened for eligibility and reviewed the results according to a published approach. Systematic review registration number PROSPERO registry number: CRD42013004137.

Results: The search yielded 2857 records. After the initial screening, 125 full-text articles were assessed by two independent reviewers. The inclusion criteria were met by nine studies. All studies conducted retrospective cohort studies using workers compensation claimant’s data, ranging from 54,931, to 100,357 reports, either over a period of 30 days or from 0 days to 4 or more years. Carnide et al (2018) was the only study to investigate opioid exposure before and after injury as a predictor of future long-term use. Among those who examined work-opioid related factors (4) found workers compensation reports with work disability for more than 14 days (OR: 2.17 [95% CI: 1.62 - 3.10]) Kraut et al (2017) on the other hand, found being a worker’s compensation claimant increased the risk of being prescribed ≥ 120 morphine equivalents (ME)