Table 2. Clinical profile of patients with Tuberculosis

Clinical profile of Tuberculosis cases				
Clinical parameter	Adult lupus (n=8,%)	Pediatric lupus (n=10,%)	Myositis (n=24,%)	P (SLE vs. IBM)
Cases on high dose steroid*	3 (37.5)	4 (40.0)	5 (20.8)	0.15
Disease duration <=1 year	4 (50)	4 (40)	8 (33.3)	0.50
Pulmonary: Extra-pulmonary	4/4	5/5	5/7	0.76
Tissue/Fluid diagnosis	1 (12.5)	7 (70)	10 (41.7)	1.00
Active underlying disease	4 (50)	7 (70)	12 (50)	0.54
Relapse of TB	2* (25)	0	2 (11.8)	0.76
Resistant Tuberculosis				
MDR suspect	0	0	2	0.09
Pre-XDR	0	0	1	1.00
Death	1 (12.5)	1 (12.5)	0	0.09

*(>0.5mg/kg) * One patient each had CKD and family history of TB

Disclosure of Interests:

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AB0582

DIAGNOSING SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS WITH PHOTOACOUSTIC AND HIGH-FREQUENCY ULTRASOUND IMAGING

B. Kersten¹, K. Daoudi², C. H. M. Van den Ende¹, F. Van den Hoogen¹, C. De Korte², M. Vonk¹. ¹Radboud University Medical Center, Rheumatology, Nijmegen, Netherlands; ²Radboud University Medical Center, Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Background: Vasculopathy is already evident in early systemic sclerosis (SSc); Raynaud's phenomenon and typical nailfoldcapillaroscopic findings are part of the criteria of very early diagnosis of SSc (VEDOSS) (1). As not all early SSc patients have alterations in their nailfoldcapillaries, there is need for other diagnostic tools. Photoacoustics(PA) and high-frequency ultrasound (HFUS) might be able to fulfill this need (2). The former can measure the oxygen saturation of hemoglobin by using short pulsed laser light while the latter can provide high-resolution images that allow measuring skin thickening distal from DIP joint, which could be used to determine skin involvement early.

Objectives: We hypothesize that photoacoustics and high-frequency ultrasound can distinguish (early) SSc patients from individuals with primary Raynaud's phenomenon (PR) by measuring the oxygenation (by PA) of the fingertip and skin thickening (by HFUS).

Methods: In our cross-sectional study, we compared measurements of the third finger in (early)SSc patients with individuals with PR and healthy volunteers. Smoking and beta-blockage were exclusion criteria. The level of oxygenation (by PA) and skin thickness (by HFUS) were compared between groups. Nailfoldcapillaroscopy was performed on all subjects and analyzed for the pattern.

Results: Thirty-one adult subjects participated in this study: twelve patients with SSc, 5 patients with early SSc, 5 volunteers with PR and 9 healthy controls.

We found a significant difference in median (IQR) oxygen saturation between earlySSc patients 75.9% (IQR 75.1%-86.6%) and subjects with PR 94.1% (IQR 93.1%-94.5%) (p=0.0002) using the Wilcoxon rank-sum test (figure 1).

Figure 1. Boxplot of saturation (%) per group.

Measurements of skin thickening also showed a significant difference in early SSc patients compared to subjects with PR, respectively 0.5mm (IQR 0.4mm-0.5mm) vs. 0.3mm (IQR 0.3mm-0.3mm), P=0.0002 (figure 2).

Figure 2. Boxplot of skin thickness (mm) per group.

Conclusion: Our results demonstrate that photoacoustic and high-frequency ultrasound can distinguish between (early)SSc and PR in both oxygenation saturation and skin thickening. In a larger prognostic study we want to determine the value of photoacoustic and high frequency ultrasound in diagnosing earlySSc.

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AB0583

COMPARISON OF THE RITUXIMAB (RTM) IN MONOTHERAPY REGIMEN AND CYCLOPHOSPHIMIDE (CYP) EFFICACY AND SAFETY IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS (SSC) WITH INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE (ILD)

O. Koneva¹, L. Ananieva¹, L. Garzanova¹, O. Desinova¹, O. Ovsyannikova¹, M. Starovoytova¹. ¹V.A. Nasonova Research Institute of Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation

Background: CyP is considered as a drug of choice for the treatment of ILD in the patients with SSc. However, the use of CyP leads to rather limited and transient improvement of the pulmonary fibrosis. RTM is considered as a promising therapeutic agent for treatment of ILD in the patients with SSc. However, the limited number of RTM-treated patients, considerably different dose regimens, cumulative doses, and observation periods does not allow univocal conclusions on RTM efficacy or definitive recommendations on RTM use in the patients with SSc.

Objectives: To compare the impact of CyP and RTM a single-agent therapy on SSc clinical manifestation and activity, and the safety of these agents in the open-label prospective non-randomized study.

Methods: 71 patients with the confirmed SSc diagnosis and ILD evidence based on multispiral computed tomography findings were enrolled into the study. All patients received low-dose and moderate-dose glucocorticoids regimens. Group A (n=35) received RTM as a single therapy agent over the follow-up period 13.3±2.3 months in a total dose 1.35±0.5g (the patient's average age was 45.0±15 years, with female proportion 80%; SSc duration 6.3±2.3 years; diffused/localized forms 1.3/1). Group B (n=36) received parenteral CyP for 12±6 months at total dose 10.6±5g (the average age 47±12 years, females 92%, SSc duration 5.0±4.8 years, diffused/localized forms 1.6/1). The age, gender proportion, SSc form and SSc duration, FVC, were similar in the both groups. The time courses of FVC, modified skin count (mRss, points), activity index (EScSG, points) were assessed in the study.

Results: The glucocorticoids starting dose that patients received at the time of inclusion in the study was significantly higher in group B compared to group A (p=0.03). Only after a year of CyP therapy, the dose of glucocorticoids was reduced to the starting dose in group A.