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AB0681

COMPARISON BETWEEN DEMOGRAPHIC AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PREDOMINANT AXIAL VS MAINLY PERIPHERAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS (SPA) PATIENTS, ENROLLED IN THE ONGOING SIRENA STUDY

R. Foti¹, G. Cardinale², L. Costa³, F. Franceschini⁴, F. Ciccio⁵, A. Marchesoni⁶, G. Guggino⁷, M. Rossini⁸, E. Lubrano⁹, M. Galeazzi¹⁰, M. Chimenti¹¹, G. Bianchi¹², G. Galfo¹³, S. Marelli¹⁴, E. Favalli¹⁵ on behalf of the SIRENA Study Group. ¹U.O. Reumatologia, AOU Policlinico Vittorio Emanuele, Catania, Italy; ²U.O. Reumatologia, Distretto nr. 1 ULSS6 Euganea, Padova, Italy; ³U.O.C. Reumatologia, Università degli Studi Federico II, Napoli, Italy; ⁴U.O.C. Reumatologia e Immunologia Clinica, ASST Spedali Civili, Brescia, Italy; ⁵Università della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Napoli, Italy; ⁶S.C. Day Hospital Reumatologia, ASST Gaetano Pini e CTO, Milano, Italy; ⁷U.O. Reumatologia, AOU Policlinico Paolo Giaccone, Palermo, Italy; ⁸U.O.C. Reumatologia, Ospedale Policlinico Borgo Roma, Verona, Italy; ⁹U.O.S.V.D. Reumatologia, Università degli Studi del Molise, Campobasso, Italy; ¹⁰U.O.C. Reumatologia, AOU Senese, Siena, Italy; ¹¹Reumatologia, Allergologia e Immunologia Clinica, Università Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy; ¹²S.C. Reumatologia, ASL3, Genova, Italy; ¹³U.O. Reumatologia e Medicina Generale, Ospedale Busacca, Scicli (RG), Italy; ¹⁴Janssen, MAF Immunology, Cologno Monzese (MI), Italy; ¹⁵S.C. Reumatologia, ASST Gaetano Pini e CTO, Milano, Italy

Background: SIRENA is an Italian, prospective Registry in Spondyloarthritis (SpA) patients, naïve to conventional, targeted and biological DMARDs. Patients are diagnosed, newly or confirmed, according to ASAS criteria and classified in subjects with predominant axial (AX) or with mainly peripheral manifestations (PER).

Objectives: To compare descriptively AX vs PER subgroups of patients.

Methods: Demographic data, diagnostic delay and subtypes of SpA as well as clinical features and comorbidities are collected.

Results: 282 patients were enrolled: 101 (35.8%) AX and 181 (64.2%) PER. Baseline data are shown in Table 1. There were more obese patients in AX (21.4% AX vs 16.1% PER) and more overweight ones in PER (19.4% AX vs 23.8% PER). The % of subjects with diagnostic delay was higher in AX (65.7% vs 53.9% PER) and the delay longer (mean of 73.1 months vs 47.8). In both groups, main reason of the delay was incorrect referrals (41.5% for AX and 45.3% for PER). Noteworthy the fact that in PER, the 75.7% of patients had a newly diagnosed SpA. In PER, the most frequent SpA type was PsA (82.3%), followed by undifferentiated SpA (8.8%) and enteropathic SpA (7.5%), while in AX, 49.5% were ankylosing spondylitis, 21.8% nr-ax-SpA and only 4% PsA. The majority of PER patients reported as first symptom peripheral arthritis (80/181), psoriasis (57/181) and enthesitis while in AX referred inflammatory back pain (80/101). High percentages of comorbidities were reported: psoriasis (65.8%) and cardiometabolic diseases (34.8%) were higher in PER while depression/anxiety and GI diseases were higher in AX (Table 2). At the baseline, the mean PhGA score (0-100) was 51.5 for AX and 43.8 for PER.

Conclusion: SIRENA study highlights relevant differences in AX vs PER patients, especially in terms of diagnostic delay, clinical presentation and comorbidities.

Table 1.

	Mean AX n=101	Mean PER n=181
Age (years)	47.3	52.8
Sex (female/male - %)	50.5/49.5	47.5/52.5
Weight (Kg)	73.0	73.9
BMI	25.3	25.4
Diagnostic Delay (yes - %)	65.7%	53.9%
Time of delay (mean - months)	71.3	47.8
Newly SpA diagnosis (%)	55.5%	75.7%

Table 2.

A) First Symptom (more than 1 symptom referred)	AX n=101 N. Patients	PER n=181 N. Patients
Arthritis	23	122
Enthesitis	16	54
Dactylitis	7	28
Inflammatory Back Pain	80	34
Psoriasis skin	10	57
Psoriasis nails	2	19
Uveitis	4	1
IBD	7	9
B) Comorbidities (more than 1 comorbidity referred)	% Patients	% Patients
Cardiometabolic	20.8%	34.8%
-Hypertension	19.8%	30.9%
-Dyslipidemia	17.8%	11.6%
-Diabetes	6.0%	7.7%
-MetS	5.0%	6.6%
Psoriasis	22.8%	65.8%
Gastrointestinal	20.8 (16.9% CD)	12.8 (4.4% CD)
Depression/Anxiety	11.9%	2.2%
Endocrine	6.9%	11.1%
Osteoporosis	3%	5.5%
Hepatic	4% (3% NAFLD)	4.4% (2.2% NAFLD)
Infections	3%	3.9%
Malignancies	0%	4.4%

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AB0682

FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHROPATHY IN A GERMAN COHORT: WORSE OUTCOMES AND WORSE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FEMALE PATIENTS

N. Frede¹, S. Hiestand¹, S. Finzel¹, R. Vol¹, J. Thiel¹, N. Venhoff¹. ¹Medical Center - University of Freiburg, Faculty of Medicine, University of Freiburg, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

Background: Axial spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) may lead to significant structural damage resulting in marked impairment and disability. Historically, AxSpA has been thought to have a distinct male predominance regarding both, occurrence but also disease severity. However, it has recently been shown in international cohorts that women with AxSpA may have in fact an increased disease burden and worse outcome than their male counterparts.

Objectives: The aim of this project was to analyse functional capacity in a German cohort of AxSpA patients and identify associated factors by comparing demographic data, clinical characteristics, disease activity and treatments.

Methods: Analysis of a German University Hospital outpatient clinic cohort of 150 AxSpA patients. Questionnaire-based screening tools were used to assess disease activity, functional impairment and quality of life (BASDAI, FfBh, WHO-QOL-BREF). Female and male patients were compared by independent samples two-tailed T tests for continuous variables as well as chi-squared test for categorical variables.

Results: A German cohort of 150 AxSpA patients with 89 male and 61 female patients (mean age 49.3 years for males, 48.5 for females, $p=0.77$) was analyzed for functional capacity. Female patients had a significantly higher functional impairment in everyday life compared to males ($p=0.013$). After adjusting for age, linear regression showed female sex still to be significantly associated with functional impairment. Female patients rated their satisfaction with health as well as their physical and mental health-related quality of life significantly lower than male patients ($p=0.015$, respectively $p=0.003$ and $p=0.002$).

There were no significant differences in disease duration, diagnostic delay or family history between male and female patients ($p=0.731$, $p=0.971$ and $p=0.776$). Women had a slightly higher disease activity (BASDAI 4.08 vs. 3.36), although just not statistically significant in our cohort ($p=0.056$). Female patients had more peripheral joint involvement (52.5% vs. 34.8%, $p=0.032$), as well as more enthesitis (31.1% vs. 16.9%, $p=0.04$), whereas there were no differences concerning eye involvement ($p=0.51$). Female patients were less likely to be HLA B27 positive (65.6 vs. 80.7%, $p=0.04$), and were less likely to be on anti-TNF treatment ($p=0.032$, respectively $p=0.042$).

Conclusion: Also in our cohort female patients had a higher burden of disease as well as a worse patient reported outcome with worse quality of life and more self-reported functional impairment in everyday life. These data underline the importance of raising awareness for sex differences in disease presentation and suggest that female patients might require different treatment to achieve improved outcomes.

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AB0683

IS THE NEW ASDAS NOMENCLATURE IN LINE WITH THERAPEUTIC DECISION MAKING IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS?

B. Garcia-Magallon¹, M. D. C. Castro Villegas², R. Rosselló¹, V. Navarro-Compán³.

¹Hospital San Jorge Huesca, Huesca, Spain; ²University Hospital Reina Sofía Córdoba, Córdoba, Spain; ³University Hospital La Paz Madrid, IdiPAZ, Madrid, Spain

Background: The Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) proposed in 2018 a change in the nomenclature of the Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) for monitoring disease activity in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), renaming the previously status of moderate disease activity as low disease activity status, with the presumption that this better reflects the perception that the doctor and the patient have about the disease situation. However, this decision was not data-driven.

Objectives: To evaluate the association between the state of low disease activity according to the new ASDAS nomenclature and the therapeutic decision in patients with axSpA.

Methods: Longitudinal retrospective study in which patients with axSpA recruited in a secondary hospital were included. All patients with clinical diagnosis of axSpA who started treatment with a first inhibitor of tumor necrosis factor between January 2014 and June 2019 were included. At each follow-up visit, disease activity assessments (including BASDAI and CRP) and the therapeutic decision of the doctor were collected. Later, the ASDAS was calculated and disease status at each visit was classified according to the new nomenclature (inactive, low, high and very high activity). Using descriptive statistics, the association between the disease activity status and the therapeutic decision was evaluated.

Results: A total of 304 visits were analyzed in 104 patients with axSpA. Out of these, 57% were women, 47% had a subtype of non-radiographic axSpA and 42% were HLA-B27 positive. The mean (standard deviation) age at diagnosis was 46.9 (12.5) years. In the visits with an ASDAS showing a status of low activity, the therapeutic attitude was not to intensify the treatment in 98.2% of the cases. However, in visits with an ASDAS status of high or very high disease activity, treatment was intensified in 33.7% and 82.8% of cases, respectively.

Conclusion: In clinical practice, the status of disease activity initially classified by the ASDAS as moderate disease activity is currently considered to represent low disease activity status based on the therapeutic attitude of following a non-intensification strategy in this situation. These data support the recent change in the nomenclature of disease activity states according to the ASDAS.

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Figure 1. Association between the state of disease activity according to the new ASDAS nomenclature and the therapeutic decision.

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AB0684

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PATIENT-REPORTED OUTCOMES AMONG EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS. RESULTS OF THE SPANISH ATLAS 2017

M. Garrido-Cumbrera^{1,2}, J. Gratacos-Masmitja^{3,4}, E. Collantes-Estévez^{5,6}, P. Zarco Montejo⁷, C. Sastré⁸, J. Correa-Fernández¹, P. Plazuelo-Ramos², V. Navarro-Compán⁹ on behalf of Atlas Working Group. ¹Health & Territory Research, Universidad de Sevilla, Seville, Spain; ²Spanish Federation of Spondyloarthritis Associations (CEADE), Madrid, Spain; ³Hospital Universitari Parc Taulí, Sabadel, Spain; ⁴I3PT, UAB, Barcelona, Spain; ⁵Reina Sofía University Hospital, Córdoba, Spain; ⁶Maimonides Biomedical Research Institute of Córdoba (IMIBIC), University of Córdoba, Córdoba, Spain; ⁷Hospital Fundación Alarcón, Madrid, Spain; ⁸Novartis Spain, Barcelona, Spain; ⁹IdiPAZ, University Hospital La Paz, Madrid, Spain

Background: Unemployment is associated with poorer disease outcomes in chronic conditions. Current high rates of unemployment in Spain may lead to a higher burden of disease in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) patients.

Objectives: To evaluate the differences in sociodemographic factors and patient-reported outcomes (PROs) between employed and unemployed axSpA patients in the same sample.

Methods: Data from 680 unselected patients of the Spanish Atlas of Axial Spondyloarthritis from an online survey were collected in 2016 were analysed. Active workforce participants were divided into employed and unemployed according to International Labour Organization (ILO) standards. Socio-demographic characteristics, and Patient-reported Outcomes (PROs) [BASDAI (0-10), spinal stiffness (3-12), functional limitation (0-54) and psychological distress (0-12, General Health Questionnaire GHQ-12)] were compared between employed and unemployed participants. The χ^2 test was used for qualitative variables and the Mann-Whitney test for quantitative variables.

Results: In total, 415 (63.6%) patients were categorised in the active population, of which 325 (78.3%) were employed and 90 (21.6%) unemployed (Table 1). 62.8% (N = 86) of unemployed patients declared that axSpA was the cause of their joblessness. Compared to the unemployed, the employed patients had a higher percentage of university studies (47.1% vs 23.3%; $p=0.001$) and higher income level per family member (€890.4 vs €358.5; $p<0.001$). In relation to PROs, the unemployed presented greater disease activity (6.3 ± 1.9 vs 5.2 ± 1.9 ; $p<0.001$) and spinal stiffness (7.8 ± 2.3 vs 6.5 ± 2.6), worst functional limitation (45.0 ± 8.4 vs 40.6 ± 10.1 ; $p<0.001$) and more psychological distress (7.6 ± 4.2 vs 4.9 ± 4.3 ; $p<0.001$). In addition, a higher proportion of unemployed participants self-reported anxiety (27.8% vs 16.0%; $p=0.011$) and depression (23.3% vs 10.2%; $p=0.001$) (Table 2).