

the GCA cohort vs 36.3 (± 107.2) days in the GnP cohort ($p < 0.001$). Although the mean (SD) daily dose of GC (prednisone equivalent) was similar in both cohorts (27.6 [± 28.20] vs 27.7 [± 25.18] mg), the mean (SD) cumulative GC dose was significantly higher in the GCA cohort than the GnP cohort (3503.0 (± 4622.6) mg vs 503.7 (± 1593.51) mg; $p < 0.001$). This indicates that GCA pts had chronic GC exposure over the study period while GnP pts likely utilized higher dose GC burst therapy less frequently. The number of incident complications associated with GC use were significantly greater in the GCA cohort, and included hypertension, diabetes, skin toxicity, infections, neuropsychiatric effects, gastrointestinal complications, ocular effects, and cardiovascular disease ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: The overall GC burden in pts with GCA is significantly higher than the general population and may result in downstream complications related to GC exposure. The incidence of GC-related complications was statistically significantly higher in GCA pts compared with GnP pts, even with a short duration of GC use. The early onset of these complications may be a significant contributor to long-term healthcare costs in GCA pts.

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OP0276

CLINICAL PATTERNS AND FOLLOW-UP OF INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS AND OTHER IMMUNE-RELATED ADVERSE EVENTS INDUCED BY CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS. A MULTICENTER STUDY

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Background: Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI), such as anti-CTLA-4 and anti-PD1/PD-L1 monoclonal antibodies, have produced impressive clinical results in different types of cancer. However, immune-related adverse events (irAEs) may develop a wide spectrum of disabling syndromes. Knowledge of different rheumatic irAEs induced by ICI is increasing over the last years, however clinical patterns, time to onset of different irAEs according to treatment and follow-up are less well known.

Objectives: To describe different clinical patterns of rheumatic irAEs induced by ICI and their rheumatic and oncologic outcomes.

Methods: We included consecutive patients with rheumatic irAEs from 3 different referral centers in Barcelona with special emphasis in articular irAEs. Four main clinical syndromes were identified: inflammatory arthritis (IA), non-inflammatory arthralgias (NIA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA)-like and polymyalgia (PMR)-like. We conducted a baseline visit and then follow-up in order to determine their clinical pattern, treatment response and outcome. Longitudinal visits were done from January 2017 to January 2020. Patients with other non-articular diagnosis were not included in the follow-up analysis.

Results: We included 55 patients. A total of 34 patients were male (61.8%) with a mean age of 65.0 \pm 11.4 years. Oncologic underlying diagnosis was lung carcinoma in 24 (43.6%) patients, followed by melanoma in 17 (29%), urothelial cancer in 4 (7.3%), breast in 2 (3.6%) and 2 (3.6%) acute myeloid leukemia among others. Seven (12.7%) patients received ICI as combined therapy. Different ICI were used including: Pembrolizumab in 21 (38.2%), Nivolumab 13 (23.6%), Atezolizumab 6 (10.9%), Nivolumab + ipilimumab 5 (9.0%), Durvalumab 3 (5.5%), Pembrolizumab + epacadostat in 2 (3.6%), 2 anti TIM3, Atezolizumab+ Ibasertib, Avelumab and Ipilimumab in one case each. 12 out of 55 patients had an underlying rheumatic disease before ICI treatment. Eleven patients developed other irAEs before or at the same time as rheumatic syndromes (mainly colitis and thyroiditis). Main rheumatic irAE included: IA in 23 (41.8%), NIA in 16 (29.1%), PsA-like in 6 (10.9%), PMR-like in 5 (9.1%) among others. Time from ICI to irAEs was 8.3 \pm 8.4 months (mo). irAE presented earlier in patients with combined ICI therapy than in patients with monotherapy (6.5 \pm 4.0 vs 8.6 \pm 8.9 mo, $p = \text{NS}$, Figure 1A). Time (in mo) from ICI initiation to irAE onset was different according to treatments. For Nivolumab 10.0 \pm 10.6, Anti TIM3 10.0 \pm 1.4, Durvalumab 9.0 \pm 2.0, Ipilimumab 7.98 \pm 9.21, Pembrolizumab 7.28 \pm 7.53, Avelumab 6.0 and Atezolizumab 4.4 \pm 5.38 mo (Figure 1B). Time from ICI initiation and onset also differs among rheumatic irAEs (Figure 2). Mean time follow-up was 13.4 \pm 10.9 mo. At the last visit, 45% were under GC, mean dose of 3.6 mg/d (range 0-40). DMARD were needed in 15% of patients (6 patients MTX, 1 with LEF and 1 SFZ). At the last visit, 11 (22.9%) patients remain with persistent arthritis, 25% intermittent flares and 52% had a self-limited pattern. Regarding

oncologic outcome, 30.2% were on remission, 30.2% in partial response and 39.6% with tumor progression. Eleven (20%) of patients died.

Conclusion: We described different clinical patterns according treatment and irAEs. Combined ICI therapy and patients treated with Atezolizumab had earlier onset of symptoms. Vasculitis and PMR-like syndromes appear in earlier phases. After a mean follow-up of around 1 year, one-quarter of the patients remain with persistent arthritis and 15% require DMARD therapy.

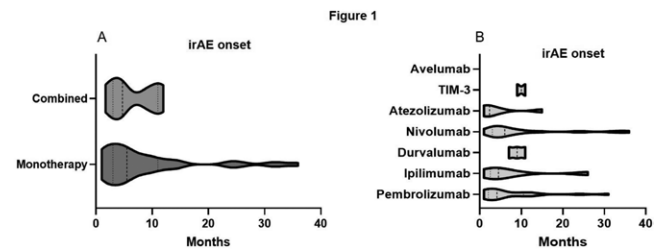
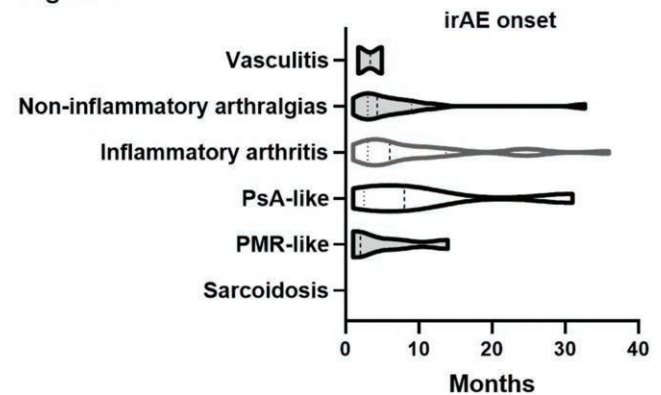


Figure 2



Disclosure of Interests: Jose A. Gómez-Puerta Speakers bureau: Abbvie, BMS, GSK, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche, Carolina Perez-García: None declared, David Lobo Prat: None declared, Roberto Gumucio: None declared, Fabiola Ojeda: None declared, Ana Milena Millán Arciniegas: None declared, Sebastian Rodríguez García: None declared, Virginia Ruiz Speakers bureau: Lilly, Pfizer, Héctor Corominas Speakers bureau: Abbvie, Lilly, Pfizer, Roche

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OP0277

AURORA PHASE 3 STUDY DEMONSTRATES VOCLOSPORIN STATISTICAL SUPERIORITY OVER STANDARD OF CARE IN LUPUS NEPHRITIS (LN)

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Background: Voclosporin (VCS) is a novel high potency calcineurin inhibitor (CNI) with a favorable metabolic profile and a consistent predictable dose response potentially eliminating the need for therapeutic drug monitoring. LN occurs more frequently and is more severe in Hispanic/Latino ethnicity SLE patients. The recently completed phase 3 AURORA study builds on the favorable efficacy seen in the Phase IIb AURA-LV study in patients with active LN.

Objectives: Document efficacy and safety of VCS vs placebo over one year when used with 2 grams of MMF daily and a rapid steroid taper in patients with active LN.

Methods: AURORA is a Phase III multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled 52-week study of active LN patients. Patients were randomized 1:1 to VCS (23.7 mg BID) or placebo in combination with mycophenolate (MMF, 1 g BID) and rapidly tapered oral steroids. The primary endpoint was renal response (RR) at 52 weeks, defined as UPCR of ≤ 0.5 mg/mg, eGFR ≥ 60 mL/min, or no confirmed decrease from baseline in eGFR of $> 20\%$, presence of sustained, low dose steroids and no administration of rescue medication. Ethnicity subgroup analyses of RR was also undertaken given the higher severity of disease in the Hispanic/Latino LN patients.

Results: There were 357 patients enrolled, 88% female, median age of 31 and 33% of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. Renal response by intention to

treat analysis at 52 weeks was 40.8% for the voclosporin arm and 22.5% for the control arm (OR: 2.65; 95% CI: 1.64, 4.27; $p < 0.001$); therefore, AURORA met its primary endpoint. These findings were consistent with those observed in the previously completed pivotal AURA-LV study. Ethnicity subgroup analysis of RR at 52 weeks noted benefit of VCS in both Hispanic/Latino (VCS 38.6% and control 18.6%, $p=0.0062$, OR 3.45) and non-Hispanic/Latino patients (VCS 41.8% and control 24.6%, $p=0.0045$, OR 2.29). The benefits of VCS were also seen for all pre-specified hierarchical secondary endpoints: RR at 24 weeks, partial renal response (PRR) at 24 and 52 weeks, time to achieve UPCR ≤ 0.5 , and time to 50% reduction in UPCR. Furthermore, all pre-specified subgroup analyses (age, sex, race, biopsy class, region, and prior MMF use) favored VCS. VCS was well tolerated with no unexpected safety signals. The overall incidence of SAEs were similar in both groups (VCS 20.8% and control 21.3%); with infection most commonly reported (VCS 10.1% and control 11.2%). Overall mortality in the trial was low, with one death in the voclosporin arm and five in the control arm. Additionally, the VCS arm showed no significant decrease at week 52 in eGFR or increase in BP, lipids, or glucose.

Conclusion: The AURORA study met its primary endpoint and VCS was efficacious in Hispanic/Latino ethnicity patients, a difficult to treat group.

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Public health, health services, and health economics in RMDs

OP0278

IDENTIFICATION OF PARAMETERS ASSOCIATED WITH A DIAGNOSTIC DELAY IN AXIAL SPONDYLOARTRITIS: RESULTS FROM THE EUROPEAN MAP OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTRITIS (EMAS)

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Background: Early diagnosis of Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is crucial for timely access to specialist care and effective treatment.

Objectives: To assess the current diagnostic delay in axSpA and identify the parameters associated with increased diagnostic delay in a European sample.

Methods: Data from unselected patients participating in the European Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis (EMAS) study through an online survey (2017- 2018) across 13 countries were analysed. Mean differences in diagnostic delay were analysed using Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis tests, among sociodemographic and disease-related factors. A multivariate linear regression analysis was carried out to identify the relative weight of the associated parameters in determining diagnostic delay.

Results: 2,846 patients participated in EMAS. Mean age was 43.9 years, 61.3% were female, 48.1% had a university degree, and 53.9% were employed. Of the 2846 participants, 2652 provided information for calculating diagnostic delay. Mean age at symptom onset was 26.6 ± 11.1 , mean age at diagnosis was 33.7 ± 11.5 , and mean diagnostic delay was 7.4 ± 8.4 (Fig. 1). The following variables were associated with longer diagnostic delay in the bivariate analysis: older age, female gender, being diagnosed by a rheumatologist (Table 1). In the multivariate regression analysis younger age at symptom onset, number of HCPs seen before were associated with diagnostic delay (Table 2).

Table 1. Associations between sociodemographic and disease-related variables and diagnostic delay (N: 2,652)

Variable		Diagnostic Delay (years) Mean \pm SD	P-value
Age categories	18-34	4.4 \pm 5.5	<0.001
	35-51	7.9 \pm 8.2	
	52-68	9.5 \pm 10.2	
	>68	7.3 \pm 9.7	
Gender	Male	6.1 \pm 7.4	<0.001
	Female	8.2 \pm 8.9	
Education level	No school completed	8.0 \pm 10.7	0.397
	Primary school	7.6 \pm 8.9	
	High school	7.6 \pm 8.4	
Occupation	University	7.3 \pm 8.3	0.163
	Manual worker	6.7 \pm 8.3	
	Non-manual worker	7.3 \pm 8.4	
Diagnosed by rheumatologist	Yes	7.9 \pm 8.7	<0.001
	No	5.7 \pm 7.3	
HLA-B27	Positive	8.3 \pm 8.3	0.775
	Negative	8.7 \pm 9.0	
Uveitis (ever)	Yes	8.0 \pm 8.3	0.098
	No	7.6 \pm 8.4	
IBD (ever)	Yes	7.7 \pm 8.7	0.944
	No	7.5 \pm 8.5	

Table 2. Regression analysis between sociodemographic and clinical variables in relation to diagnostic delay

Variable	Univariable linear regression		Multivariable stepwise linear regression	
	B	95% CI	B	95% CI
Age at symptoms onset	-0.289	-0.316, -0.262	-0.321	-0.390, -0.253
Female gender	2.099	1.442, 2.755	NA	NA
Employed, Manual worker	-0.604	-1.953, 0.746	NA	NA
Educational status, University	-0.343	-0.986, 0.299	NA	NA
Diagnosed by rheumatologist, Yes	2.117	1.321, 2.913	NA	NA
Number of HCPs seen before diagnosis	1.723	1.486, 1.960	1.258	0.739, 1.776
HLA-B27, Positive	-0.471	-1.347, 0.404	NA	NA
Uveitis (ever), Yes	0.463	-0.392, 1.319	NA	NA
IBD (ever), Yes	0.123	-0.971, 1.217	NA	NA

Conclusion: In this large sample of axSpA patients from 13 different European countries, the average diagnostic delay was more than seven years. The fact that one of the most strongly associated parameters to diagnostic delay was number of HCPs seen before diagnosis suggests the need for urgent action to reduce incorrect referrals to shorten the patient journey to diagnosis across Europe.

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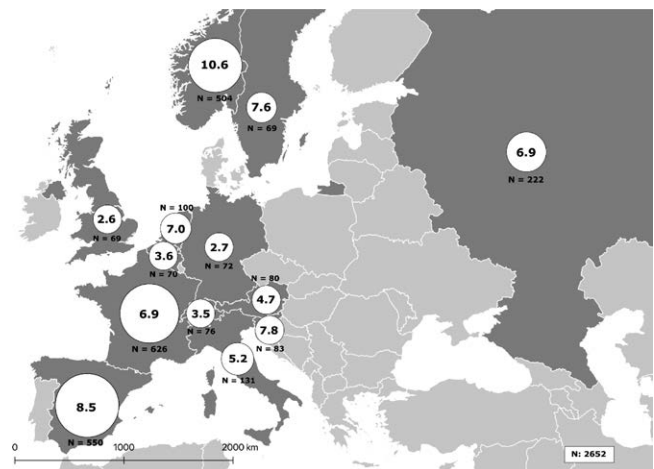


Figure 1. Average years of diagnostic delay across EMAS countries (N: 2,652)