pain in (71.8%). Gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms comprised of regurgitation in 31 (81.5%) and dysphagia in 14 (36.8%). Intestinal lung disease was present in 30 (78.9%) patients, with higher prevalence in diffuse scleroderma (100%) than in limited scleroderma (70%) (p<0.01). Pulmonary hypertension was present in 18 patients, with significantly higher prevalence in diffuse disease (57.1%), that was secondary to intestinal lung disease and in limited disease it was found in (11.8%) (p<0.01). Thirty (78.9%) patients were found to have restricted disease on pulmonary function tests. Obstetric history showed a higher prevalence of primary infertility in at least 6 (15.8%) patients, with significantly higher prevalence in limited systemic sclerosis disease as compared to diffuse disease (23.5% vs 9.5%, and p=0.05). Fibromyalgia diagnosed as per ACR criteria was present in 7 (18.4%) patients, and depression assessed by Hospital Anxiety and depression (HADS) score was present in 10 (26.3%) patients.

Anti nucleic acid antibody (ANA) was found positive in 30 (78.9%) patients. Anti Scl-70 antibodies were in 24 (63.2%) patients, with significant association with diffuse disease (85% vs 35.3% and p<0.01), while anti centromere antibodies were present in 20 (52.6%) patients; significantly higher in limited disease (94.2% vs 19.0%, and p<0.01).

Conclusion: Scleroderma is a very important, autoimmune multisystem disease. It has female preponderance. Raynaud phenomenon is the most initial clinical feature followed by other manifestations of variable course and disease severity. Intestinal lung disease and pulmonary hypertension were the most important complication found in our patients which has poor prognosis. So, it is imperative to early diagnose and treat the disease manifestations to prevent future complications.

Keywords: Scleroderma, Systemic sclerosis.

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AB0094 INCREASE OF ENDOTHELIAL PROGENITOR CELLS IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS-ASSOCIATED INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE

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Background: Endothelial progenitor cells (EPC), involved in vasculogenesis and endothelial tissue repair, have been described as relevant players in vascular endothelial tissue repair, have been described as relevant players in vascular

Results: Peripheral venous blood was collected from a total of 39 patients with SSC-ILD+ and 39 patients with SSC-ILD-. Statistically significant differences in EPC frequency between patients with SSC-ILD+ and patients with SSC-ILD- were disclosed. Specifically, an increase of EPC frequency was observed in SSC-ILD+ patients when compared to patients with SSC-ILD- (mean ± standard deviation: 0.033 ± 0.012 versus 0.021 ± 0.017, respectively, p=0.012).

Conclusion: Our results suggest a potential role of EPC on vascular damage associated with the manifestation of ILD in patients with SSC.

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AB0095 EXPRESSION AND PATHOGENIC ROLES OF INTEGRIN FAMILY GENE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

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Background: Emerging evidence have shown that some integrin members are associated with inflammation and fibrosis in systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients[1-2]. However, the expression patterns and pathogenic significance of the whole integrin family in SSc are still unclear.

Objectives: This study aimed at evaluating the integrin family gene expression in skin lesion from SSc patients and exploring its potential pathogenic mechanism.

Methods: We utilized the public datasets of SSC skin tissue from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database to analyze the expression and clinical significance of integrin family genes in SSc. In addition, functional enrichment and pathway analysis were also conducted.

Results: Compared with healthy controls, ITGA5, ITGA7, ITGB4, ITGB5, ITGB6, and ITGB8 were aberrantly overexpressed in the skin of SSC. Further analysis indicated that ITGA5, ITGA7, ITGB4, ITGB5 and ITGB8 were positively correlated with modified Rodnan skin thickness score (mRSS), while ITGAE expression was associated with positive of anti-centromere antibody (ACA). Functional enrichment and pathway analysis showed that integrin members had multiple functions in SSc. Among them, ITGA5, ITGB5, ITGB7 and ITGB8 might synergistically promote SSc through affecting extracellular matrix (ECM) turn-over, ECM-receptor interaction, focal adhesion and leukocyte trans-endothelial migration. ITGA5 and ITGB5 also affected angiogenesis and endothelial cell function.

Conclusion: Our results implied that integrins, especially ITGA5, ITGB5, ITGB7 participated in the process of inflammation, vasculopathy and fibrosis in SSc. Together, they might render important therapeutic targets for SSc.

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Vasculitis - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

AB0096 IGA VASCULITIS AND IGA NEPHROPATHY SHARE AN SIMILAR IIL7A ASSOCIATION PATTERN