ARTHRITIS RESEARCH

EXPERIENCES AND PERCEPTIONS OF PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PARTICIPATING IN A TRIAL OF FACIAL MICROBIOTA TRANSPLANTATION: A NESTED QUALITATIVE STUDY

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Background: Patients’ first-hand experiences of faecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) performed in a rheumatological care-setting have yet to be elucidated. Objectives: The objectives were to explore participants’ perceptions of being part of an FMT trial thereby identifying potential trial participation effects and enlightening the patient perspective on the outlook for future FMT trials in rheumatic diseases. Methods: In a qualitative study nested within a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial (RCT) testing FMT as a potential new anti-rheumatic treatment,1 semi-structured telephone interviews were conducted following the trial participants’ final 26-week visit. The RCT was conducted at a Danish rheumatology university outpatient clinic with nationwide inclusion. The qualitative study included ten patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) who completed the final 26-week trial visit and were unaware of their treatment allocation (one gastroscopic-guided FMT or sham transplantation), see table 1. Qualitative researchers, who did not take part in the RCT, performed the interviews and the primary analysis. The experiences explored related to the conduct of the RCT and changes in the participants’ everyday life. The analysis was carried out using a thematic approach. There was sufficient repetition of ideas in data to conclude data saturation.

Table 1. Characteristics of the participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Total (n = 10)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, no. (%)</td>
<td>7 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, yr.</td>
<td>53.9 (11.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since diagnosis, yr.</td>
<td>74 (4.2, 12.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid factor IgM negative, no. (%)</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-citrullinated peptide antibody negative, no. (%)</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-B27 negative, no. (%)</td>
<td>8 (80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein, mg/L</td>
<td>4.5 (3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAQ-DI</td>
<td>1.09 (0.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen joint 66 count</td>
<td>7.4 (3.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tendon joint 66 count</td>
<td>22.8 (7.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPARCC enthesis index</td>
<td>8.7 (4.0)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Results: Participation in the RCT influenced the patients’ understanding of PsA and induced positive changes in their everyday life. Renewed hopes for the future in addition to a feeling of enhanced care contributed to significant trial participation effects.2 We identified several factors related to the RCT that may have promoted these effects (figure 1). FMT was deemed acceptable and safe, and all participants supported more research into the field of microbiota-targeted interventions in rheumatic diseases.

Conclusion: Discrepancies between the clinical and the research setting should be considered when discussing the clinical relevance of the results of the RCT. Overall, patients with PsA who have participated in an RCT testing FMT find the treatment acceptable and safe encouraging more research into the field of microbiota-targeted interventions in rheumatic diseases. Further research into the potential beneficial and adverse effects of FMT in addition to exploring the magnitudes and mechanisms behind FMT trial participation effects in the rheumatological setting are highly needed.

REFERENCES:


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**AB0925-PARE**

**A NARRATIVE REVIEW ASSESSING THE ROLE OF DIETARY SALT AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTOR FOR THE ONSET AND SEVERITY OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

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**Background:** The role of dietary salt consumption in the etiopathogenesis of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), and autoimmune disease in general, has received renewed interest. This has been fueled by the increased prevalence of autoimmune disease worldwide correlating with western diets and heightened consumption of salt rich foods and also studies at the cellular level demonstrating induction of IL 17 producing T helper cells (Th17) by dietary salt.

**Objectives:** To conduct a narrative review of observational studies and clinical trials on the role of dietary salt as an environmental risk factor for the onset and development of RA.

**Methods:** A comprehensive search was done of the literature from 2010 to 2021 using the search terms dietary salt and RA; the native interfaces EBSCO and Ovid were used. Databases searched included Pubmed, Embase, EMBCare, Medline and CINAHL using a Population, Exposure and Outcome framework; the MESH terms RA, risk factors, nutrition and salt were used. Data was extracted by an independent reviewer.

**Results:** Out of the 72 studies initially identified, 50 were included in this review. Studies in murine models have demonstrated that high concentrations of sodium chloride promote the differentiation of T helper lymphocytes, via the serum- and glucocorticoid-inducible kinase 1 (SGK1) mediator towards the proinflammatory Th17 driven immune response. Six studies were carried out in human subjects. Study design ranged from cross sectional observational to nested case control studies. Sodium intake amongst participants characterized as having high intake, or being placed in the higher quartiles, ranged from 4.5-5grams per day. Out of 6 studies demonstrated that increased dietary salt consumption is associated with earlier onset RA. One study suggested an association between high salt intake and erosive disease at diagnosis and the development of anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA), although evidence was weak and from a single study only. Another study found that increased consumption of salt was only associated with risk of RA in smokers, highlighting the need to explore confounding variables further.

**Conclusion:** This narrative review of the literature provides some evidence that supports a role of excess dietary salt consumption as a risk factor for the onset and severity of RA.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared

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**Psychosocial support**

**AB0926-PARE**

**IMPACT OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC ON TUNISIAN SPA PATIENTS: PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE AND TREATMENT ADHERENCE**


**Background:** This is a cross sectional study including patients with SpA (ASAS criteria). A survey comprising questions about adherence to stay home warnings, objective use of the medications; medications that the patient stopped taking.

**Objectives:** To give an overview of work productivity and activity impairment in patients with SAPHO syndrome.

**Methods:** This is a cross sectional study including patients with SpA (ASAS criteria). A survey comprising questions about adherence to stay home warnings, objective use of the medications; medications that the patient stopped taking.

**Results:** We included thirty patients, the average age was: 39.7 years-old and the sex ratio was: 13.75 % of patients were married. The SpA was axial in 25%, peripheral in 20%, and both in 55 %. Most patients had a moderate activity and the mean activity scores were: BASDAI = 2.80, ASDAS cspcr2:65 38% of patients were on biologics, 36 % on sulfasalazine and NSAIDs and 26 % on NSAIDs only.

**Conclusion:** It seemed that significant number of patients strictly adhered to stay home warnings (>89%) only 11% were obliged to go out for work during general lockdown while only 24 % adhered to it after general lockdown.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared

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**Work and rehabilitation**

**AB0927-PARE**

**WORK PRODUCTIVITY AND ACTIVITY IMPAIRMENT IN PATIENTS WITH SAPHO SYNDROME**

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**Background:** Spondyloarthritis is a rare disease, characterized by osteoarticular and cutaneous manifestations. Ostteitis and hyperostosis are regarded as the core pathophysiological changes of SAPHO syndrome [1], which may lead to bone pain and loss of motor function. The Work Productivity and Activity Impairment (WPAI) questionnaire is an instrument to measure the impact of the disease on work productivity and activity, subsequently adapted for ankylosing spondylitis [2], rheumatoid arthritis [3], irritable bowel syndrome [4], and other chronic diseases [5]. However, no study has investigated the work productivity of patients with SAPHO syndrome.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study is to give an overview of work productivity loss in SAPHO patients through the work productivity and activity impairment (WPAI) questionnaire and investigate the relationship between the WPAI and other disease-related indicators.

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared

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