RA patients with MS. It was revealed that there are significant differences in the level of both ANGPTL3 ($F = 8.86$, $p = 0.0034$) and ANGPTL4 ($F = 29.6$, $p < 0.001$) between RA patients with varying severity of metabolic disorders.

The study of the influence of several factors (MS and renal dysfunction) on the content of ANGPTL in RA patients showed that the presence of metabolic disorders had an insignificant effect on the parameters of ANGPTL3 in the groups of patients with optimal and slightly reduced GFR, acquiring significance only with a more intense decrease in GFR ($< 59 \text{ ml / min / } 1.73 \text{ m}^2$). These factors and their interactions explain the insignificant share of the variability in ANGPTL3 ($R^2 = 0.11$), which indicates a low quality of the model.

There was a more pronounced difference in the level of ANGPTL4 in the presence of metabolic disorders in the groups of RA patients with varying degrees of renal dysfunction. The factors under consideration and their interactions do not make this model significant ($p = 0.1$), although they can explain a significant proportion of the variability in ANGPTL4 ($R^2 = 0.32$).

We differentiated RA patients into patients with high or optimal GFR ($\geq 89 \text{ ml / min}$) and patients with reduced GFR ($< 89 \text{ ml / min}$) when combining groups of RA patients with varying degrees of renal dysfunction (group II and group III). Multivariate analysis of variance using the new characteristics showed a significant increase in ANGPTL 4 in the blood serum of RA patients with reduced GFR ($F = 18.5$, $p < 0.001$) and severe metabolic changes ($F = 24.2$, $p < 0.001$).

Thus, the concentration of ANGPTL4 in RA patients is directly influenced by two factors (renal dysfunction and the presence of MS), which can describe the variability of this sign in more than 30% of cases. The squared multiple correlation coefficient (R^2) in this model is 0.33.

Conclusion: ANGPTL type 4 should be considered as a key factor linking the development of the renal dysfunction in RA patients and the metabolic changes caused by rheumatoid inflammation.

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POS0547

METEOROLOGICAL VARIABLES HAVE DIFFERENT INFLUENCE ON CORE MEASURES OF DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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Background: The notion that weather conditions may influence the symptoms and course of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases goes back to ancient times. However, despite the seemingly obvious relationship, previous studies assessing how meteorological variables affect pain and disease activity have yielded contradictory results.

Objectives: To evaluate whether meteorological variables influence disease activity in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: We assessed correlations between clinical measures of disease activity (pain, patient global assessment [PGA], tender- and swollen 28 joint counts [TJC and SJC]) and individual meteorological variables: temperature (temp.), effective (eff.) temperature, saturation vapor pressure (SVP), absolute humidity (AH), relative humidity (RH), dew point, vapor pressure (VP) and precipitation. Assessments documented in the Care for Rheumatoid Arthritis database of our institution were matched with these meteorological variables on a daily basis for a period of 12 years between 2005 and 2017 and analyzed utilizing generalized estimating equations. Patients with < 5 visits in the study period, those with < 1 visit/quarter or with no pain (VAS=0) in ≥ 3 consecutive visits and those living outside of the catchment area were excluded. Patients were grouped into remission or low (≤ 11) vs. moderate or high (> 11) disease activity based on the simplified disease activity index (SDAI).

Results: A total of 461 patients with an average disease duration at first visit of 5.7 ± 7.4 years, average age of 55.3 ± 14.5 years and a mean SDAI of 22.1 ± 12.7 were analyzed. Among patients with moderate or high disease activity, higher temp./eff. temp. and SVP were associated with lower pain, TJC and SJC (Figure 1); on the contrary, higher RH was associated with higher pain and higher SJC. In those in remission or low disease activity, higher RH, AH, VP or dew point were associated with lower PGA. Higher precipitation was associated with lower SJC.

Figure 1. Association of meteorological parameters and clinical measures of disease activity. PGA: patient's global assessment, SDAI: simplified disease activity index, SJC: swollen joint count, TJC: tender joint count. * $p \leq 0.05$, ** $p \leq 0.01$, *** $p \leq 0.001$

Conclusion: In this large association study of meteorological parameters with RA, both temperature and humidity parameters were modestly inversely associated with pain, TJC and SJC.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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POS0548

OPTIMAL ASSESSMENT OF THE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS ANKLE AND HINDFOOT: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN CLINICAL EXAMINATION AND ULTRASONOGRAPHY

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Background: Foot disease is a common problem in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Therapeutic decisions are often based on clinical examination (CE) alone, which can be adversely affected by factors such as deformity, obesity, and peripheral edema. Ultrasonography (US) has previously been shown to be more sensitive than CE for detecting synovitis and tenosynovitis in RA forefeet, but few data exist for the hindfoot and ankle.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to compare CE and US for the detection of hindfoot and ankle synovitis and tenosynovitis in patients with established RA.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients with RA (ACR/EULAR 2010). Demographic data and disease parameters were collected. CE was performed by a rheumatologist for the presence or absence of tenderness, swelling, and mobility restriction of both ankles. The following tendons were examined for tenosynovitis: tibialis anterior (TA) and posterior (TP), fibularis longus (FL), and brevis (FB) (assessed together). In a second time, US examination of the tibiotalar, talonavicular, and subtalar joints and the same tendons as CE was performed by a blinded radiologist experienced in musculoskeletal imaging using a Philips HD11 device with a high-frequency linear transducer. The presence or absence of synovitis and tenosynovitis was recorded, and the composite synovitis score (power doppler / grayscale ultrasound (PDUS)) was measured for each joint. The US score of each patient was defined by the sum of the composite scores of the joints studied (0-30). A p-value < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: Sixty-two feet were examined in 31 RA patients (25 women and six men) with a mean age of 54.8 ± 10.8 years old [32-70]. The mean disease duration was 8.5 ± 7.2 years [1-37]. Rheumatoid Factor (RF) and Anti-Citrullinated Peptides Antibodies (ACPA) were positive in 61.3% and 83.8% of cases. The mean DAS28 ESR was 3.8 ± 1.5 [0.6-7].

Clinical examination of ankles revealed tenderness in 57.4% of cases, swelling in 38.8% of cases, and restriction in the range of motion in 11.1% of cases. TA tenosynovitis was noted in 14.8% of cases, TP tenosynovitis in 22.2% of cases, and FL and FB tenosynovitis in 31.5% of cases.

US showed tibiotalar synovitis in 59.3% of cases, talonavicular synovitis in 64.8% of cases, and subtalar synovitis in 46.3% of cases. TA tenosynovitis was noted in 5.6% of cases, TP tenosynovitis in 22.2% of cases, and FL and FB tenosynovitis in 25% and 11.1% of cases respectively.

An association was found between clinical tenderness and US synovitis of the tibiotalar joint ($p=0.013$) and the talonavicular joint ($p=0.027$). No association was noted between clinical swelling and US synovitis in these joints.

No association was noted between clinical and US tenosynovitis of TA ($p=0.279$), TP ($p=0.436$), FB ($p=0.495$) and FL ($p=0.315$).

Conclusion: Clinical examination of RA ankles may be challenging and needs to be coupled with US, which is more sensitive and accurate in the detection of synovitis and tenosynovitis.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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POS0549 FUNCTIONAL IMPACT OF FOREFOOT INVOLVEMENT IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory disease that mainly affects small joints of the hands and feet. Foot deformities may affect the patient's gait, thus compromising their daily activities and autonomy.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to analyze its functional impact.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study including patients diagnosed with RA according to the ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. Demographic variables, Foot Function Index (FFI), and Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) scores were analyzed. We collected data on the following clinical variables: The pain Visual Analog Scale (VAS), forefoot deformities, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), and Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS28). All patients had feet X-rays and the Larsen score was calculated. A blinded radiologist experienced in musculoskeletal imaging using a Philips HD11 device with a high-frequency linear transducer performed ultrasonography (US) of MTP joints. Synovitis was defined as an abnormal hypoechoic synovial tissue within the capsule that is not displaceable and poorly compressible and that may exhibit Doppler signals. The composite synovitis score (power doppler / grayscale ultrasound (PDUS)) was measured for each joint. The US score of each patient was defined by the sum of the composite scores of the joints studied (0-30). A p -value <0.05 was considered significant.

Results: We included 31 patients (25 men and six women) with a mean age of 54.8 ± 10.8 years old [32-70]. The mean disease duration was 8.5 ± 7.2 years [1-37]. The mean ESR and DAS28 ESR were 33 ± 26 mm [5-102] and 3.8 ± 1.5 [0.6-7], respectively. Twenty-nine percent of patients had a high disease activity.

Metatarsalgia was reported by 54.8% of patients with a mean VAS of 4.5 ± 3.7 [0-9]. Forefoot deformities were noted in 42% of patients: round forefoot in 13% of cases, triangular forefoot in 29% of cases, hallux valgus in 29% of cases, Quintus varus in 29% of cases, and claw toes in 13% of cases. Corns and calluses were noted in 42% and 29% of cases respectively.

X-rays showed abnormalities in 75% of patients. The mean Larsen score was 9.8 ± 6.2 [0-28].

US showed synovitis in 46.3% of MTP1, in 53.7% of MTP2, in 48.3% of MTP3, in 42.6% of MTP4, and in 37% of MTP5 joints. Doppler signal was detected in 5.6% of MTP1 and MTP2, and in 3.7% of MTP3, MTP4, and MTP5 joints. The mean US score was 5.3 ± 4.3 [0-15].

The mean FFI was 66.5%. Mean rates of pain, difficulty, and disability were 89.5%, 40%, and 70% respectively. The mean HAQ score was 0.5 ± 0.5 [0-2]. Severe disability was noted in 20% of patients.

A significant positive correlation was noted between FFI and, Larsen score ($r=0.214$, $p=0.014$) and US score ($r=0.420$, $p=0.021$). A significant positive correlation was also noted between HAQ score and, foot pain VAS ($r=0.555$, $p=0.009$).

Conclusion: Foot involvement is frequently seen in RA. This condition may affect patients' autonomy. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment are necessary in order to preserve the quality of life.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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POS0550

EVALUATION OF THE INTIMA-MEDIA THICKNESS INDEX BY CAROTID DOPPLER IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AT HOSPITAL DOCENTE PADRE BILLINI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease systemic, affects 0.5 - 1% of the world population, predominantly female. ⁽¹⁾ Carotid Doppler is used to detect endothelial dysfunction by measuring intima-media thickening, flow velocities, subclinical atherosclerosis markers, and vascular tone. ^(2,3) Measurement of carotid intima-media thickness (cIMT) is useful in assessing cerebrovascular disease and cardiovascular risk in patients with rheumatoid arthritis ⁽⁴⁾ Intima-media thickness value > 0.9 mm and presence of plaques Atheromatous cells in the carotid artery are predictive of increased cardiovascular risk and silent heart disease. ^(5,6)

Objectives: To evaluate the carotid intima-media thickness in patients with rheumatoid arthritis

Methods: A prospective, observational, cross-sectional study. Carotid Doppler was performed on outpatient patients with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis from November 2019 to 2020 of the rheumatology service of the Hospital Docente Padre Billini and healthy controls. Inclusion criteria: > 18 years, diagnosis of RA according to ACR / EULAR 2010 classification criteria, carotid Doppler with measurement of the carotid intima-media thickness. Controls without disease, matched by sex and age. The data were analyzed with SPSS V23.

Results: Of 251 patients with a diagnosis of RA, 100 met criteria inclusion, 96.2% female, 100 healthy controls were included. Average evolution of the disease 7.5 years, 88% (88) Positive rheumatoid factor, 33% (33) Positive anti-CCP. 82% (82) concomitant scDMARD, 70% (70) bDMARD, 18% (18) ctDMARD. 53% (53) Dyslipidemia, 23% (23) obesity, 10% (10) hyperglycemia, 8% (8) smokers. DAS28 showed 57% (57) low activity, 20% (20) moderate activity, 15% (15) remission, 8% (8) high activity. Carotid Doppler in patients with RA showed 32% (32) atheromatous plaques, 18.75% (6) calcified plaques, 1.44% (1) stenosis bilateral carotid. C-reactive protein and erythrocyte sedimentation rate high 35% (35) / 58% (58) respectively. Carotid Doppler in healthy controls revealed 17% (17) atheromatous plaques, 47.05% (8) calcified plaques. 69% (69) of RA patients had increased cIMT, mean (SD) cIMT 3.82 mm (1.11), controls 58% (58) increase in cIMT, Mean (SD) 3.12 mm (0.93) ($p = 0.0435$).

Conclusion: Our study showed that 69% of patients with Arthritis Rheumatoid featured increased intima-media thickness associated with low DAS28, we recommend assessing cardiovascular risk using carotid Doppler in patients with low to moderate activity. It was observed that in patients with RA and healthy controls more than half present increased carotid intima-media thickness.

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