After therapy, 7 patients had regression of symptoms and 1 patient had a permanent neurological impairment.

Conclusion: Multilevel spondylodiscitis involving non-contiguous spine segments is rare. Although atypical organisms are generally held to be responsible, the common bacteria such as Streptococcus B or Staphylococcus aureus should not be overlooked.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None declared
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular.3190

POS1278
THE PREVALENCE AND CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS OF DISTAL MEDIAL HAMSTRING TENDONS IN PATIENTS WITH POSTEROMEDIAL KNEE PAIN
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Background: Periarticular abnormalities are common ultrasonographic (US) findings in individuals with knee pain. Incidental US observations, including thickening of the distal hamstring tendons, require explanations for their clinical importance. Tendon thickness may be a good indicator of tendinopathy and tendon dysfunction. Also, it is uncertain whether these tendon changes are correlated with knee pain.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine US findings of distal medial hamstring tendons in patients with posteromedial (PM) knee pain and assess the diagnostic values of tendon thickness in predicting tendinopathy.

Methods: We studied distal medial hamstring tendons (semimembranosus [SM] and semitendinosus [ST]) of 104 patients (104 knees) with non-traumatic unilateral PM knee pain and 118 healthy controls (236 knees). US evaluations included tendon thickness, echogenicity, the presence of intrasubstance tears, calcification, and vascularity.

Results: The mean age (standard deviation) of the patients and control groups were 51.7 (10.4) years and 49.8 (9.9) years, respectively. The mean visual analogue scale (VAS) for pain among patients was 5.1 and 58.6% of them located the pain at medial joint line. The studied patients had significantly higher mean SM thickness (7.1mm vs. 5.46mm, respectively) and ST thickness (3.93mm vs. 3.45mm, respectively) than the controls. US abnormalities among patients were hypechogetic (62.5%), intrasubstance tears (31.7%), loss of fibrillar pattern (23.1%), Baker cyst (20.2%), calcification (18.3%), Anserine bursitis (11.5%), and neovascularization (6.7%). We found significant correlations between tendon thickness and VAS (r=0.752, p<0.004), and pain location (r=0.680, p=0.008). SM thickness had higher accuracy to predict tendinopathy than ST thickness (80.6% vs. 68.9%, respectively).

Discussion: Tendon thickness may be a good indicator of tendinopathy and tendon thickening of the distal hamstring tendons, require explanations for their clinical importance. Tendon thickness may be a good indicator of tendinopathy and tendon dysfunction. Also, it is uncertain whether these tendon changes are correlated with knee pain.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular.3233

Table 1. Diagnostic values of tendon thickness in predicting tendinopathy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tendons</th>
<th>Cutoff</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
<th>+PV</th>
<th>-PV</th>
<th>Accuracy</th>
<th>AUC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SM</td>
<td>&gt;6.6</td>
<td>70.2</td>
<td>89.8</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>80.6</td>
<td>0.835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>&gt;3.7</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>67.6</td>
<td>68.9</td>
<td>0.696</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SM: semimembranosus, ST: semitendinosus, +PV: positive predictive value, -PV: negative predictive value, AUC: area under curve.

Conclusion: US changes are frequently present in patients with PM knee pain. Tendon thickness is an accurate predictor of tendinopathy. These findings suggest that US screening of all individuals with PM knee pain is a useful tool for improving patient outcomes and decreasing tendon-related disability.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular.3365

POS1280
SPINAL LOCATION OF TUBERCULOSIS: WHAT HAS CHANGED OVER THE LAST YEARS?
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Background: Tuberculosis (TB) is no longer a disease limited to developing nations and is still a major cause of significant morbidity and mortality worldwide. It can affect the different parts of the spine.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the preferred spinal location of TB.

Methods: We conduct a retrospective and descriptive study in a single rheumatology department. Data were collected from observations of patients hospitalized in the past 20 years (2000-2020) who have been diagnosed with tuberculous spondylodiscitis (TS).

Results: Fifty-two patients were included (37F/15M). Their mean age was 55.21 years ± 17.79 (19-91). TS was more frequently unilateral (75%) than bilateral (25%). Lumbar spine involvement was the most common (57.7%) and more frequent in women (63.3%) but with no statistically significant difference (p = 0.02). Other localizations were described such as: dorso-lumbar (21.2%), dorsal (15.4%), lumbosacral (3.8%) and cervical (1.9%). Lumbar pain was present in 34 patients (65.4%) and 29 patients (55.8%) suffered from segmental lumbar stiffness. Imaging was contributive by showing the vertebral location using standard X-rays, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. Disc pinch, erosion of vertebral plateaus and vertebral collapse were the major signs (82.7%, 65.4% and 67.3%, respectively).

Conclusion: TS is a rare but serious clinical condition which may lead to severe deformity and early or late neurological complications. Spinal involvement is often unilateral and mostly diagnosed with lumbar pain or stiffness. Multifocal forms, touching several parts of the spine, however remain rare. Our findings remain consistent with those of the literature.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular.3273

POS1281
HOW DOES OBESITY INFLUENCE THE FEATURES OF KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS?
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Background: Knee osteoarthritis and obesity are both major health problems. It is now acknowledged that the prevalence of knee osteoarthritis gets higher with obesity and that weight loss helps knee function and allows patients to avoid surgery.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to study the influence of obesity on knee osteoarthritis features.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in the university hospital Taher Star of Tunisia over a period of 6 months. Patients who had knee osteoarthritis confirmed by radiographs were included. Sociodemographic, clinical, radiological and therapeutic data were collected from medical records and visits. Obesity was

Disclosure of Interests: None declared
DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular.3602
defined by a body mass index (BMI) ≥30. Functional impairment was assessed by the Womac index and Lequesne index.

**Results:** The study included 166 patients. There were 31 males and 135 females. The mean age was 60±10 years. The percentage of obese patients was 53.8%. The mean age was similar in both groups obese and non-obese. There were more women in the obese group compared to the non obese group (p=0.0001), more patients who had diabetes mellitus and dyslipidemia (p=0.002). Non-obese patients had a shorter duration of symptoms with no statistical significance (p=0.151). Obese patients had more involvement of both knees (p=0.001). Obesity did not have an impact on pain severity. Severely radiological images (p=0.0001) were more frequent in obese patients. Functional impairment was similar in both groups. However, the percentage of patients having a very important functional impairment with Lequesne index was higher in obese patients (p<0.029). Obese patients also needed more physical therapy sessions (p=0.035).

**Conclusion:** Knee osteoarthritis in obese patients is characterized with the female gender predominance, bilateral knee involvement, and a more severe images on radiographs. Thus the need for better control of weight and the importance of physical activity.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular.3602

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**Table 1. Effectiveness of three methods for body composition assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>STUdy GROUP</th>
<th>CONTROL GROUP</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>106 [96;122]</td>
<td>80 [77;81]</td>
<td>0.00251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>376 [104;124]</td>
<td>26.6 [24.3;30]</td>
<td>0.00000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bod Pod</td>
<td>45.4 [42.1;53.8]</td>
<td>37.7 [26.6;41.1]</td>
<td>0.00342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% lean mass</td>
<td>54.6 [46.2;57.9]</td>
<td>62.3 [58.7;81.4]</td>
<td>0.00342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fat mass (kg)</td>
<td>47.00 [38.1;69.935]</td>
<td>31.016 [23.23;38.04]</td>
<td>0.00636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lean mass (kg)</td>
<td>55.00 [49.4;67.77]</td>
<td>40.359 [32.12;49.058]</td>
<td>0.18537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIA</td>
<td>42.75 [48.6;5]</td>
<td>33.150 [28.4;35.5]</td>
<td>0.03577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% lean mass</td>
<td>59.5 [53.9;70.75]</td>
<td>54.850 [49.9;62.6]</td>
<td>0.45832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skeletal muscle mass (kg)</td>
<td>27.8 [23.9;32.3]</td>
<td>25.6 [22.9;33]</td>
<td>0.70167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skeletal muscle mass (%)</td>
<td>45.3 [43.4;47.7]</td>
<td>47.1 [42.3;48.6]</td>
<td>0.41568</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DXA Total Body**

- Total body lean mass (g) 97276 [86062; 101924] 86268 [57839; 90563] 0.06025
- Total body fat mass (g) 47000 [39300; 56729] 25652 [21164; 36396] 0.05976
- Total body muscle mass (g) 49861 [42793; 57088] 36426 [32273; 43341] 0.97371

**Conclusion:** From methods of body composition assessment, air-replacement bodyplethysmography (BodPod) is the most sensitive in the verification of skeletal muscle mass reduction in obese patients. This method shows that patients with obesity have a significantly reduced muscle mass compared with normal weight or overweight subjects.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular.3629

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**POS1283**

**SPONDYLODISCITIS WITHOUT DOCUMENTED GERM: WHAT THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT?**

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**Background:** Spondyloarthritis (SD) is an infectious inflammation that affects the vertebral, vertebral discs and adjacent structures. It may have a bacterial or non-bacterial etiology. Although analysis has improved and identification of pathogens is highly pursued, in one third of cases, no organism can be identified.

**Objectives:** The objective of our work is to describe the epidemiological, clinical and evolutionary profile of SD with no germ identified and management.

**Methods:** This is a retrospective study including 37 cases of SD with no germ identified, collected in the Rheumatology Department of Farhat Hached hospital in Sousse, Tunisia over a period of 22 years (1998-2020).

**Results:** The mean age was 59.7 years [19-97 years]. These were 21 men (56.76 %) and 16 women (43.24 %). Spinal pain was the major symptom. The lumbar location was the most frequent in 56.76 % of cases. It was a multifocal localization in 21.62 %. The imaging allowed the detection of para abscesses -vertebral in 43.24 %. An epiduritis was objectified in 50.05 %. CT-guided biopsy was performed in 59.46 % and it was not conclusive. A bacteriological survey was carried out and came back negative. Spondyloarthritis was presumed to be tubercular and staphylococcal in respectively 62.16 % and 19.2 %. The tuberculosis origin was retained in view of the chronic evolution, the multi-stage damage in the radiolog-ical assessment. While staphylococcal SD was retained due to the presence of cutaneous lesion and subacute evolution. Large-spectrum antibiotic therapy was initiated in the other cases. One case was initially considered to be staphylococcal but with epidural and soft tissue extension tuberculosis was then considered to be the cause. The evolution after initiation of adequate antibiotic treatment was interspersed with neurological complications in one case of tuberculosis SD.

**Conclusion:** Our results show a higher frequency of presumed tuberculosis SD considering the endemicity of our country and the improvement under anti tuberculous treatment.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular.3649

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**POS1284**

**FASCIAL ULTRASOUND: THE CONTEXT FOR DRY NEEDLING IN TREATMENT OF MYOFASCIAL PAIN, POSTURAL IMBALANCE**

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**Background:** Muscles and fascia are the major source of pain in rheumatic diseases. Dry needling under ultrasound guidance (DN-US) is a crucial therapeutic approach to treat muscle pain [1,2], the definition ‘myo-fascial’ calls for searching trigger points (TrPs) in fascia to improve the treatment effectiveness.

**Objectives:** Aim was to evaluate the relevance of fascial ultrasound for DN-US to improve pain relief.

**Methods:** We included 36 patients (21 females, 20-69 years old) with myo-fascial pain. Myo-fascial ultrasound scanning includes a single detection of different localisations (low back, limbs, shoulder, neck pain), postural imbalance; did DN-US protocol according to R. Bubnov [1]: trigger points were identified according, fine (28G) steel needle DN-US was applied. Additionally considered fascial structures for detecting areas of abnormalities (hypervascularity, heterogeneity, hypomotility, adhesions) aka `trigger points`. The ultrasound was performed in all patients. DN-US was applied to myo-fascial points (TrPs) in fascia to improve the treatment effectiveness.

**Results:** In all patients movement restored and pain decreased after muscles DN-US and in 30 patients additionally we detected and did successful DN-US the localisations (low back, limbs, shoulder, neck pain), postural imbalance, and potential nerve compression/irritation and did precise DN-US where appropriate.

**REFERENCES:**

**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared.

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-eular.3649