Conclusion: For the first time we suggest the potential usefulness of IL-2RA as a marker of disease activity in SjS. Notably, IL2RA has been used as a marker to identify CD4+FoxP3+ regulatory T cells. So far, it is known that T follicular helper (Tfh) cell differentiation is inhibited by IL-2 while regulatory T cell differentiation and survival depend on it. Nonetheless, Wing et al. (1) described a CD25- subpopulation within human PD1+CXCR5+Fopx3+ Tfh cells preferentially located in germinal centers which is reduced by the presence of IL-2, possibly explaining the association with disease activity. IL-12p40 is known to have a pathogenic role in SjS (2) and we suggest that it may represent a complementary tool in the evaluation of patients’ symptoms. The presence of high levels of IL-15 in SjS is not novel and associated with T cell migration and proliferation in germinal centers. Finally, the observation of very high BAFF/BlyS levels in the male with cryoglobulins will require further analysis.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None declared


POS0789

CLINICAL FEATURES OF SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME WITH AND WITHOUT NEUROLOGICAL INVOLVEMENT (NEURO-SJÖGREN)

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Background: Sjögren’s Syndrome is well known for its characteristic sicca symptoms due to autoinflammatory destruction of the salivary and lacrimal glands, but neurological involvement is also common in this entity. Nevertheless, previ-

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Tabea Seeliger: None declared, Emelie Kramer: None


POS0790

18F-FLUORODEOXYGLUCOSE (FDG) PET-CT IMAGING OF SALIVARY GLANDS IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN’S SYNDROME AND ITS CORRELATION WITH ULTRASONOGRAPHIC SCORES AND SALIVARY FLOW RATE COMPARED TO HEALTHY CONTROLS

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Background: The use of salivary gland imaging modalities in patients with primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS) has been increasing recently. The contribution of each imaging method in terms of diagnosis or disease activity differs from each other. Although ultrasound and MRI are the most commonly used imaging modalities, the role of PET-CT for diagnosis in pSS and determining glandular and extraglandular involvement has largely been neglected.

Objectives: This study aimed to compare the sizes and metabolic activities of the major salivary glands in patients with pSS and healthy controls (HC). Correlation of the 18F-FDG PET-CT uptake characteristics with ultrasound scores and salivary flow rates of the patients and HC was also determined.

Methods: 22 patients with pSS and 10 age/sex-matched HC were included in the study. The sizes and FDG uptakes of the parotid and submandibular glands of pSS patients and HC were assessed by PET-CT. The maximum standardized uptake value (SUVmax) was evaluated for FDG uptakes, and each patient’s liver uptake and salivary gland uptake ratio were calculated. Correlations of gland sizes and FDG uptakes in PET-CT with OMERACT and Hoeve ultrasound scores, stimulated and unstimulated SFR, ESSPRY dryness scores and disease durations of pSS patients were calculated by Spearman test.

Results: The mean age (SD) of the patients was 58.6 years (10.5) versus 58.6 years (19.1) of HC; the mean (SD) disease duration was 8.96 (8.77) years. ANA was positive in all patients, anti-SSA positivity was present in 82.6%, and 30.4% of patients experienced ≥1 parotid swelling episode. Compared to HCs, the mean size of both submandibular glands (p=0.006 for left and p=0.032 for right) and SUVmax of the left submandibular gland (p=0.044) were signifi-

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Table 1. Correlations of gland sizes and ultrasonographic scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gland</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Parenchymal</th>
<th>Hypoechoic</th>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>Homogeneity Border</th>
<th>Homogeneity Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R-Parotid r</td>
<td>0.699</td>
<td>0.717</td>
<td>0.704</td>
<td>0.598</td>
<td>0.368</td>
<td>0.758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-Parotid r</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.166</td>
<td>0.062</td>
<td>0.288</td>
<td>0.067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-Subm</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>0.118</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>0.028</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-Subm</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>0.133</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td>0.021</td>
<td>0.036</td>
<td>0.022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Disclosure of Interests: None declared
