Epidemiology, risk factors for disease or disease progression

POS0934 PREVALENCE AND TRENDS OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION IN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Keywords: Lungs, Comorbidities, Epidemiology

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Background: Pulmonary hypertension (PHTN) is a known complication of connective tissue diseases such as Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Scleroderma (Scl), and Mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD).[1] The underlying mechanism for development of PHTN is remodeling and vasoconstriction of pulmonary arteries and arterioles.[2] There have been cases of severe PHTN in SLE patients that have shown improvement with immunosuppressive therapy, hence accentuating the role of inflammation in pathogenesis.[3] The Prevalence of PHTN is not well studied, and there are no large cohort studies available. This study was undertaken to capture the trend in the prevalence of PHTN in the aforementioned diseases.

Objectives: To determine the prevalence of PHTN in SLE, Scl, and MCTD, analyze the trend over a 15-year period as well as identify racial predisposition, length of stay (LOS), and cost of hospitalization in these patients.

Methods: We used the Nationwide Inpatient Sample database (years 2003-2018) and extracted patients with PHTN using validated International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes. Data from 2015 was excluded from the study considering the transition of the coding system from version 9 to 10. We identified cases having the diagnosis of SLE, Scl, and MCTD. Prevalence, as well as demographics, cost of hospitalization, and length of stay (LOS), were analyzed and charted. Data were analyzed using statistical analysis system software 9.4.

Results: Over the period of 15 years, we identified 2,155,750 cases of PHTN. As seen in the graph, patients with SLE had the highest prevalence of PHTN. The prevalence rate of SLE in PHTN cases in 2003 was 0.92% which significantly increased to 1.05% in 2018, with a peak of 1.15% seen in 2014 (p < 0.0001). Prevalence rate of Scl in PHTN decreased from 1.07% in 2003 to 0.80% in 2018 (p < 0.0001). It was seen that the prevalence rate of MCTD in cases with PHTN significantly increased from 0.06% in 2003 to 0.23% in 2018 (p < 0.0001). It was observed that the average age of PHTN cases was significantly younger in SLE (55.60 vs 70.80 years, p < 0.0001), Scl (62.94 vs 70.72 years, p < 0.0001), and MCTD (58.49 vs 70.66 years, p < 0.0001). On examining the racial distribution, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans were more likely to have underlying SLE, Scl, and MCTD, respectively. PHTN was more prevalent in females in all 3 diseases. The average cost of hospitalization was significantly higher in PHTN cases with MCTD ($76,696.7 vs $65,643.3, p < 0.0001) and SLE ($69,106.5 vs $65,620.6, p < 0.0001), while it was not significantly lower in PHTN cases with Scl ($65,272.9 vs $65,659.9, p = 0.65). LOS was significantly longer in PHTN with MCTD (7.02 vs 6.64 days, p = 0.0119). Though not significant, average LOS was longer in PHTN with SLE (6.73 vs 6.64 days, p = 0.0812) and shorter in PHTN with Scl (6.62 vs 6.64 days, p = 0.7917).

Conclusion: Improved survival, seen secondary to increased awareness, better diagnostic testing, multidisciplinary team approach, and newer treatment modalities has led to an increase in the prevalence of patients living with PHTN. Interestingly, our study shows that the prevalence of PHTN in SLE and MCTD is increasing while decreasing for Scl. Racial predisposition becomes evident, which demands a higher index of suspicion for the early diagnosis of PHTN in the respective races. There is a higher socioeconomic burden for patients with PHTN and autoimmune disease, as reflected by the increased LOS and cost of hospitalization.

REFERENCES:

POS0935 THE COURSE OF CYTOKINE AND CHEMOKINE GENE EXPRESSION IN CLINICALLY SUSPECT ARTHRALGIA PATIENTS DURING PROGRESSION TO INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS

Keywords: Rheumatoid arthritis, Cytokines and chemokines

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Background: Autoantibody-responds rise years before onset of inflammatory arthritis (IA) and are stable during transitioning from clinically suspect arthralgia (CSA) to IA. Cytokine and chemokine levels also rise years before IA-onset. However, the course in the at-risk stage of CSA during progression to disease or non-progression is unknown.

Objectives: To increase the understanding of processes mediating disease development, we studied the course of cytokine, chemokine and related receptors gene expression in CSA-patients during progression to IA, and in CSA-patients who ultimately did not develop IA.

Methods: Whole-blood RNA-expression of 37 inflammatory cytokines/chemokines/receptor was determined by dual-colour reverse-transcription multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification, in paired samples of CSA-patients at CSA-onset and either at IA-development or after 24-months without IA-development. ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative CSA-patients developing IA were compared at CSA-onset and during progression to IA. GEE-models tested changes over time. A false discovery rate approach was applied.

Results: None of the cytokines/chemokine genes significantly changed in expression between CSA-onset and IA-development (Figure 1A). In CSA-patients without IA-development, G-CSF expression decreased (p<0.001), whereas CCR6 and TNIP expression increased (p<0.001 and p=0.002, respectively) over time. ACPA-positive and ACPA-negative CSA-patients developing IA were compared at CSA-onset and during progression to IA. GEE-models tested changes over time. A false discovery rate approach was applied.

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Figure 1. (A) Modelled course of gene expression of 37 cytokines/chemokines/related receptors in CSA-patients that progressed to IA. Cytokines, chemokines and related receptors were measured at baseline and at time of IA-development and for reasons of clarity presented in two plots. No statistically significant changes were observed during follow-up. (B) Modelled course of gene expression of CCR6, G-CSF and TNIP1 in CSA-patients that did not progress to IA. Cytokines, chemokines and related receptors were measured in paired samples from each patient with 2-year intervals. For comparison, the course of patients that progressed to IA was included, here the 2nd samples was collected at IA-development. CSA, clinically suspect arthralgia; IA, inflammatory arthritis.
Conclusion: Whole-blood gene expression of assessed cytokines/chemokines/related receptors did not change significantly from CSA to IA-development. This suggests that changes in expression of these molecules may not be related to the final process of developing chronicity and may have occurred preceding CSA-onset. Changes in gene expression in CSA-patients without IA-development may provide clues for processes related to resolution.

REFERENCES: NIL.

Acknowledgements: NIL.

Disclosure of Interests: None Declared.

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Table 1. Characteristics of pregnant women with chronic inflammatory diseases who stopped TNFi pre-conception and those who took TNFi at any time during gestation (n=3,372).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal Diagnosis, n (%)</th>
<th>TNFi pre-conception only during pregnancy (n=3372)</th>
<th>TNFi any time during pregnancy (n=2902)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>1588 (47)</td>
<td>2902/3372 (86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD only</td>
<td>807 (24)</td>
<td>620/807 (77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA only</td>
<td>530 (16)</td>
<td>398/530 (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsA/PsO only</td>
<td>1085 (32)</td>
<td>936/2902 (32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-biologic DMARDs, n (%)</td>
<td>713 (21)</td>
<td>647/2902 (22)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background: From this study, we found that there were two main outcomes of opioid-related hospitalisations in new opioid users with the following RMDs: rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), and inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) who were exposed to TNFi during pregnancy.

Methods: We created a cohort of pregnant women with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis (PsA), psoriasis (PsO), and/or inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) who were exposed to TNFi during pregnancy. We defined opioid-related hospitalisations as any hospitalisation with a primary diagnosis of opioid-related toxicity.

Results: We identified 3,372 pregnancies: 13% discontinued TNFi in the 12 weeks before conception and did not restart, and 86% were exposed to TNFi during pregnancy. Pregnancies in IBD patients accounted for 47% of all pregnancies. In our sample, 13% discontinued TNFi in the 12 weeks before conception and did not restart. The proportion of patients stopping TNFi pre-conception between 2017-2019 decreased compared to earlier years, possibly reflecting updated guidelines. Further research on TNFi discontinuation in the years after the 2020 ACR guidelines is warranted.

POS0936

TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR INHIBITORS USE AND DISCONTINUATION AMONG WOMEN WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

Keywords: Pregnancy and reproduction, bDMARD, Descriptive studies

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Background: We examined trends in TNFi discontinuation pre-conception over time, and evaluated the characteristics of pregnant women with chronic inflammatory diseases who stopped using TNFi pre-conception (without resuming in pregnancy) compared with those who used TNFi at any time during pregnancy.

Methods: We created a cohort of pregnant women with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis (PsA), psoriasis (PsO), and/or inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) who were exposed to TNFi during pregnancy. We defined opioid-related hospitalisations as any hospitalisation with a primary diagnosis of opioid-related toxicity.

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POS0937

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS DUE TO OPIOID-RELATED HARMs IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES

Keywords: Osteoarthritis, Fibromyalgia, Prognostic factors

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Background: Hospital admissions due to opioid-related toxicity have doubled in the United Kingdom over the last decade. Rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) are some of the most common indications for prescribing opioids in primary care. Little is known about what individual factors are associated with serious opioid-related harms in this population. A better understanding of these risks is imperative for safe prescribing of opioids in patients with RMDs.

Methods: To assess patient factors associated with opioid-related hospitalisations in new opioid users with the following RMDs: rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS), psoriatic arthritis (PsA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), osteoarthritis (OA), and fibromyalgia.

Results: In our sample, 13% discontinued TNFi in the 12 weeks before conception and did not restart, and 86% were exposed to TNFi during pregnancy. Pregnancies in IBD patients accounted for 47% of all pregnancies. In our sample, 13% discontinued TNFi in the 12 weeks before conception and did not restart. The proportion of patients stopping TNFi pre-conception between 2017-2019 decreased compared to earlier years, possibly reflecting updated guidelines. Further research on TNFi discontinuation in the years after the 2020 ACR guidelines is warranted.