

Clinical and laboratory data analysis from 328 patients with primary Sjögren's syndrome

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Introduction. Primary Sjögren's Syndrome (pSS) represents an autoimmune disorder, which affects mainly exocrine glands at utmost of their localisations. Therefore, a variety of symptoms of different organ involvement can be observed.

Material and methods. Data were collected during the period 1986-1998 at the time of diagnosis at SSRC-MAS. In 328 cases a diagnosis of pSS has been made according to the Copenhagen Criteria (1). Male:Female ratio = 9.8%:90.2%. Average age at the time of diagnosis - 55 years (range: 16-83y). Smokers consisted of the 23.9% from all patients. Four special charts (Main-registration, Rheumatological, Oral and Ophthalmological) have been fulfilled and organised in electronic medical records system (Oracle). Data Statistical Analysis has been performed using *SPSS for Windows* software. Correlation analysis using Chi-square, Pearson's and Fisher's exact tests for non-parametric variables, while t-test and Mann-Whitney U-test – for means, also 95% Confidence Interval estimations have been performed.

Results. We have used recently proposed terminology and classification of clinical symptoms - "SS wheel" (2).

Among Surface Exocrine Disease - Eye symptoms the prevalent ones have been: foreign body sensation in eyes (68.6%); dry eyes - daily, persistent (54.6%); need of tear substitutes (45.4%); burning sensation (39.5%); irritation of eyes by smoke, dust, etc (29.8%); photophobia (29.1%); redness of eyes (26.6%); sticky secretion from eyes (21.3%).

Among Surface Exocrine Disease - Mouth symptoms: dry mouth, persistent (89.3%); need of water per night (70.9%); difficulties: - to talk (58.1%), - to swallow (49.5%), - to chew (41.5%); sticky saliva (47.6%); need of saliva substitutes (42.3%); taste disturbance (26.9%), oral foetor (20.2%), redness of oral mucosa (18.1%).

Other important exocrine symptoms have been the following ones: dry skin (80.8%); dry nose (63.6%); dry trachea (55.8%), hoarse voice (46.8%); dry cough (45.4%); dyspareunia (46.5%); dysphagia (43%); epigastric discomfort (24.5%); diminished lung diffusion capacity (21.7%); irritable bowel syndrome (14.3%).

Non-exocrine disease symptoms - Inflammatory vascular: arthralgia (70.4%); myalgia (46.5%); recurrent skin manifestations (30.5%); peripheral neuropathy (28%); arthritis (24%). Non-inflammatory-Vascular symptoms: Raynaud's phenomenon - (10%). Mediator-induced: tiredness (83.8%); fever (11.1%); cytopenia (9%). Autoimmune endocrine: thyroiditis (18.2%).

In laboratory data the most common findings were ANA (46-51% by different methods); ESR >18 mm/h (44%); IgG >15 g/l (36.1%); anti-SS-A (30.3%) and -SS-B (21.9%) antibodies; RF-acryl test (29.3%).

Discussion and conclusions. Surface Exocrine Disease symptoms, tiredness and arthralgia represent the most common symptoms in pSS patients diagnosed according to Copenhagen criteria.

References

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