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WORKING STATUS AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH WORK PRODUCTIVITY AMONG PEOPLE WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

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Background: Work disability is an important functional outcome measure in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and includes unemployment and loss of work productivity.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to investigate the working status and the factors associated with work productivity in patients with PsA.

Methods: Patients with PsA according to Classification Criteria for Psoriatic Arthritis (CASPAR) were included in the study consecutively, without sample selection. Data about age, sex, disease duration (month) were noted. Disease activity was assessed with DAPSA (Disease Activity in Psoriatic Arthritis) and BASDAI (Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index). The Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) was used to evaluate physical disability. The Psoriatic Arthritis Quality of Life (PsAQoL) scale was used to assess the quality of life. Fatigue and stiffness were assessed on the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS). Anxiety and depression were evaluated with HAD (Hospital Anxiety and Depression) scale.

Assessing work disability, we asked some questions to the patients including employment status, and early retirement, changing or reducing work due to PsA. We used WPAI: PsA (Work Productivity and Activity Impairment Questionnaire) to evaluate the impact of PsA on work productivity. WPAI: PsA consists of six questions and gives four scores: the percentage of absenteeism (work time missed due to PsA), the percentage of presenteeism (reduced productivity at work due to PsA), an overall work impairment (combines absenteeism and presenteeism) and percentage of impairment in daily activities.

The association between WPAI: PsA scores and HAQ, PsAQoL, HAD, fatigue and stiffness was determined by Spearman's correlation coefficient. The Mann Whitney-U test was used to compare the means of groups. The descriptive analysis was done for demographic data. $P < 0.05$ accepted as significant. SPSS 20.0 (Statistical package for social sciences for Windows 20.0) program was used for the statistical analysis.

Results: The mean age of 60 patients (38 female, 22 male) with PsA was 48.13 (SD: 11.53) years. The median (min-max) duration of disease was 36 (3-384) months.

63.33% of the patients were not working and 57.89% of these patients were housewives, and 23.68% were retired. 11.66% of the patients with PsA were unemployed. There were no patients who were retired early due to the disease. Percentage of the stopping work, changing work or reducing working hours due to PsA was 3.3%, 6.7% and 10%, respectively.

There was no significant difference between the working and not-working groups of patients according to the disease duration, DAPSA, BASDAI and HAQ scores ($p > 0.05$). The mean age was higher in the non-working group ($p < 0.005$).

There was no absenteeism in 63.3% of patients. The mean percentage of the presenteeism was 36 (SD: 30.79) and the mean percentage of the overall work impairment was 41 (SD: 34.06). There were no significant correlations between WPAI: PsA scores and age, disease duration, DAPSA score ($p > 0.05$). Presenteeism and overall work impairment had significant moderate correlations with fatigue (rho: 0.639, p : 0.001; rho: 0.607, p : 0.003), morning stiffness (rho: 0.424, p : 0.049; rho: 0.484, p : 0.023), HAQ (rho: 0.532, p : 0.011; rho: 0.551, p : 0.008), PsAQoL (rho: 0.481, p : 0.023; rho: 0.510, p : 0.015), HAD depression (rho: 0.650, p : 0.001; rho: 0.634, p : 0.002), and HAD anxiety scores (rho: 0.486, p : 0.022; rho: 0.527, p : 0.012), respectively.

Conclusion: Psoriatic arthritis can cause loss of work productivity. The severity of work impairment is associated with fatigue, stiffness, physical disability, depression, anxiety and health-related quality of life. In our study population, the percentage of housewives and retired was high and the rate of unemployment was 11.66%. This is a preliminary study and will continue in larger patient populations.

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RESPONSE TO SECUKINUMAB AMONG NAIVE AND BIOLOGICALLY EXPERIENCED PATIENTS IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

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Background: Secukinumab is a recombinant human monoclonal immunoglobulin IgG antibody that selectively targets IL-17A and blocks its interaction with the IL-17 receptor. Inhibition of the downstream effects of this proinflammatory cytokine thereby interferes with key psoriasis disease pathways while promoting normalization of immune function and skin histology.

Objectives: The aim of the study was two-fold; firstly, to compare the response to Secukinumab in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) patients who were biologically naive and experienced, and secondly to compare the response between smokers and non-smokers.

Methods: In collaboration with the National Psoriatic Arthritis Registry of Ireland, patients who were diagnosed and treated as PsA at University Hospital Kerry between March 2017 and October 2018 were included in this population-based cohort study. Patients demographic, clinical characteristics, treatment strategies (including response rates and adverse effects) were captured at baseline and at follow-up outpatient visits.

Results: A total of 96 patients were identified and included in the study (mean age of 56.6 years; male to female ratio of 1:1, 49 males, 47 females). Of these patients, 15 received Secukinumab (7 biologically-naive patients, 8 patients with previous treatment failure to anti-TNF agents (3 patients received one anti-TNF, 5 received two different anti-TNFs). In the biologically-naive group, 5 patients (71%) had complete response to Secukinumab, one patient (14.3%) had complete improvement of joint symptoms but remained fatigued (high BRAF score) while 1 patient (14.3%) had no improvement. All 7 of these patients were exposed to cigarette smoking (6 current smokers, one ex-smoker). In patients who previously failed anti-TNF, five (62.5%) remained symptomatic (tender & swollen joints, PROMs and BRAF score remained high) despite treatment with Secukinumab. Only three patients (37.5%) responded well to treatment. Two of the eight patients never smoked (both did not respond to Secukinumab) while the other 6 patients (3 responded, 3 had no response) were ex-smokers.

Conclusion: In our study, Secukinumab demonstrated better response to the biologically-naive PsA patients, while smoking did not increase the risk of disease activity among PsA patients receiving Secukinumab.

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EVOLUTION ON HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

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Background: Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a chronic, progressive and inflammatory arthritis. It is considered a multifaceted disease, with a high impact on patient's psychological and physical well-being, with patients reporting lower health-related quality of life (HRQoL). Data of burden of disease is substantial and even though there are some studies that identify risk factors with longstanding PsA, there exists a need for properly designed studies to learn more about the evolution of HRQoL throughout the follow-up in this condition.

Objectives: To analyze the evolution on HRQoL in patients with PsA and to evaluate factors that may influence this evolution.

Methods: Retrospective longitudinal observational study including incident patients diagnosed with PsA from 2007 to 2016, and followed-up until loss of follow-up or December 2017; with at least two registered visits; having received any ICD9/ICD10 diagnosis code of PsA; and with symptoms onset after 16 years of age. Patients were collected from the rheumatology outpatient clinic of a tertiary hospital (Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, Spain). Clinical information was collected from a departmental electronic health record, including demographic, clinical, comorbidities, treatment, and HRQoL related variables (measured with the Rosser