

EUSCLE Core Set Questionnaire: A Database Analysis of 50 Patients with Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus

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Objectives: Due to the lack of standardized guidelines for the assessment and treatment of cutaneous lupus erythematosus (CLE), the European Society of Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (EUSCLE) developed a Core Set Questionnaire for the evaluation of patients with this multifaceted autoimmune disease.

Material and Methods: In this study, disease subsets were evaluated in 50 patients (42 female, 8 male) from two European centers (Germany and Sweden) by means of the EUSCLE Core Set Questionnaire and an associated database. Acute CLE (ACLE) was diagnosed in 5 patients, subacute CLE (SCLE) in 12 patients, chronic CLE (CCLE) in 14 patients, and intermittent CLE (ICLE) in 19 patients.

Results: 24 of the 50 patients fulfilled 4 or more of the ACR criteria for the classification of systemic lupus erythematosus; however, only 10 of them had severe organ manifestations, such as kidney involvement. Malar rash and arthritis were significantly ($p < 0.05$) more frequent in ACLE than in all other subtypes of CLE. Furthermore, antinuclear antibodies occurred significantly ($p < 0.05$) more often in patients with ACLE than in patients with ICLE. The presence of different types of antibodies, such as anti-Ro/SSA and anti-La/SSB antibodies, revealed further significant differences between the various CLE subtypes. The predominantly used treatments included sunscreens (47 patients), topical steroids (46 patients), topical calcineurin inhibitors (21 patients), chloroquine (22 patients), hydroxychloroquine (17 patients), and systemic steroids (15 patients).

Conclusion: The EUSCLE Core Set Questionnaire with its database provides a useful tool for a standardized collection and evaluation of data on CLE in clinical practice. It further enables the clinician to characterize the different skin manifestations involved in CLE and to evaluate diagnostic parameters and reasonable treatment modalities.