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Disease manifestations in cutaneous lupus erythematosus: Database analysis of the EUSCLE Core Set Questionnaire from 26 European centers

Aims The aim of the present study was to characterize disease manifestations in patients with different subtypes of cutaneous lupus erythematosus (CLE) and to gain a broad and comparable data collection from different European centers using the Core Set Questionnaire of the European Society of Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (EUSCLE).

Methods EUSCLE collects prospectively data of CLE patients with the EUSCLE Core Set Questionnaire in the participating centers. In May 2009, a total of 511 patients with CLE were enrolled in 26 centers from 13 different countries. The statistical analysis was performed in 47 (7 male/40 female) patients with acute CLE (ACLE), 155 (32 male/123 female) patients with subacute CLE (SCLE), 232 (49 male/183 female) patients with chronic CLE (CCLE) and 42 (12 male/30 female) patients with ICLE.

Results Mean age at onset of disease was 38.5 ± 16.0 years in ACLE, 47.2 ± 16.4 years in SCLE, 41.7 ± 14.4 years in CCLE, and 40.0 ± 13.8 years in ICLE with significant differences between some of the subtypes. A total of 55.6% CLE patients presented with a high titer of antinuclear antibodies (HEp-2 cells), and 25.8% of these patients had antibodies against dsDNA, 50.5% against Ro/SSA, and 28.4% against La/SSB. Moreover, 82.6% of the patients with ACLE had a positive history of photosensitivity, compared to 77.6% in SCLE, 67.2% in CCLE, and 78.4% in ICLE. A photoprovocation test was performed in 109 CLE patients and 50.5% of these patients showed a positive reaction; however, 16.4% of the patients with a positive phototest denied any effect of sun exposure on their disease. Further data on clinical, laboratory, and therapeutic parameters will be presented.

Conclusions The EUSCLE Core Set Questionnaire constitutes a useful tool for the collection and evaluation of data from patients with CLE and facilitates the analysis of disease manifestations in different subtypes of this disease throughout Europe.