

A report from the European Society of Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (EUSCLE): Database analysis of the Core Set Questionnaire

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Introduction The aim of the present multicenter study was to evaluate disease characteristics 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 Disease characteristics were prospectively analyzed in a total of 1018 patients with CLE enrolled in 30 centers from 13 different European countries. An SPSS database was designed to enable a consistent, detailed statistical analysis of the EUSCLE Core Set Questionnaire. The analysis resulted in 316 (56 male/260 female) diagnoses of acute CLE (ACLE), 332 (77 male/255 female) of subacute CLE (SCLE), 624 (137 male/487 female) of chronic CLE (CCLE) and 102 (36 male/66 female) of intermittent CLE (ICLE). 327 of the patients featured two or more disease subtypes.

Results Mean age at onset of disease was 39.2 ± 15 years in ACLE, 49.2 ± 16 years in SCLE, 42.1 ± 14 years in CCLE, and 41.3 ± 13 years in ICLE. A total of 81.7% patients with ACLE had a positive history of photosensitivity, compared to 76.8% in SCLE, 67.6% in CCLE, and 76.5% in ICLE. A photoprovocation test was performed in 231 patients with CLE and 52.8% of them showed a positive reaction. Moreover, 56.1% CLE patients presented with positive antinuclear antibodies (HEp-2 cells), and 51.3% of them had antibodies against Ro/SSA, 28.4% against La/SSB, and 26.6% against dsDNA. Further data on activity and damage of the disease as well as on clinical, laboratory, and therapeutic parameters were analyzed.

Conclusions The analysis of the EUSCLE Core Set Questionnaire results in the evaluation of characteristic features and diagnostic strategies in patients with different subtypes of CLE. To our knowledge, this is the largest database including 1018 patients with this disease in Europe.