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DRY EYE IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

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BACKGROUND

Dry eye is one of the most common ophthalmologic disorders. It is unknown if the occurrence of the dryness is associated with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) activity or cumulative damage. Presently, we studied a cohort of lupus patients aiming to know if SLE disease activity or cumulative damage were linked to the presence of dry eye.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We studied 70 SLE patients for the presence of dry eye by Schirmer test, disease activity by SLE-disease activity index (SLEDAI) and cumulative damage by Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics/American College of Rheumatology (SLICC/ACR). Patients were also submitted to the Ocular Surface Disease Index (OSDI) questionnaire. Epidemiological and treatment data and autoantibody profile were extracted from the charts.

RESULTS

Dry eye by Schirmer test was present in 51.4% of the sample. No association of the presence of dry eye with SLEDAI and SLICC were found ($p = ns$). Subjective symptoms of dry eye measured by OSDI showed a modest correlation with SLEDAI (Spearman $\rho = 0.32$). Treatment profile did not influence in the presence of dry eye that was more common in older patients ($p < 0.0001$). Anti-dsDNA had a negative association with the presence of positive Schirmer test ($p = 0.0008$).

CONCLUSIONS

Dry eye detected by Schirmer test in SLE patients has no association with disease activity nor cumulative damage. Anti-dsDNA seems to have a protective effect in this context.

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