<https://doi.org/10.47660/CBR.2020.17460>

HIGH LEVELS OF C-REACTIVE PROTEIN ARE ASSOCIATED WITH USE OF BIOLOGIC THERAPY IN NON-RADIOGRAPHIC AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS

Nestor Barreto-Neto^{1,*}, Lucas Araújo Brandão¹, Ana Cristina Medeiros Ribeiro¹, Julio Cesar Bertacini de Moraes¹, Claudia Goldenstein Schainberg¹, Percival Degraça Sampaio-Barros¹, Celio Roberto Gonçalves¹, Carla Gonçalves Schahin Saad¹

1.Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo (SP), Brazil.

*Corresponding author: nestor.barreto@hc.fm.usp.br

BACKGROUND

The Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) has defined criteria for non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) in 2009. To date, there are no Brazilian studies that evaluate clinical outcomes of patients with nr-axSpA, especially regarding use of biologic therapy in these patients. The aim of this study is to identify the clinical and laboratory characteristics of nr-axSpA, as well as predictors of use biologic therapy in a tertiary outpatient center in Brazil.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All patients classified as nr-axSpA and with diagnosis of axial SpA of a tertiary outpatient center in Brazil were included in a retrospective analysis. Baseline clinical and laboratory data were collected, as well as clinical and disease treatment in follow-up using a longitudinal electronic database.

RESULTS

Sixty-six patients with nr-axSpA were selected to the study, 41 (62.1%) males with 75% of HLA-B27 positive. Mean age of symptoms onset was 29.3 ± 2.7 years and the mean time from symptom onset until diagnosis was 4.7 ± 1.59 years. Mean duration of follow-up was 7.56 ± 1.67 years. Comparing patients who used biological therapy during the follow-up with patients who did not use, higher levels of baseline C-reactive protein was independently associated with introduction of biological therapy [31.5 (0.5–160) vs. 6.7 (0–162) mg/L, $p < 0.001$] while the presence of ankle arthritis at baseline was independently associated with no biological therapy during follow-up ($p = 0.048$).

CONCLUSION

In this retrospective study with a long-term follow-up high levels of C reactive protein at baseline is associated with biological use in a single center cohort of nr-axSpA. Further prospective studies are necessary to confirm this data and to evaluate the impact of use of biological therapies in these patients.