PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHIES OVERLAPPING WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS: A BRAZILIAN-JAPANESE BICENTRIC DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

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BACKGROUND

The literature contains few studies on inflammatory myopathies and systemic sclerosis overlap syndromes (MyoSScOS), and most of these are limited to reports or case series. Thus, we aim to analyze the demographic, clinical, and laboratory characteristics and follow-up of a representative sample of patients with MyoSScOS.

METHODS

A descriptive study was conducted with 45 patients with MyoSScOS from two tertiary centers (Brazil and Japan) using data from the period 2000–2020.

RESULTS

The patients, who were predominantly female, had a current average age of 50 years, and a median follow-up time of 98 months. Myo or SSc onset was earlier in Brazilian patients. Muscle impairment started simultaneously with the diagnosis of systemic sclerosis in 57.8% of cases. Muscle involvement occurred before the onset of systemic sclerosis in 35.5% of cases, and after in 6.7%. Polymyositis was observed in 55.6% of cases, followed by dermatomyositis in 24.4% and antisynthetase syndrome in 20.0%. Concerning systemic sclerosis, the diffuse and limited forms occurred in 64.4% and 35.6% of the cases, respectively. Comparing the subgroups, Brazilian patients had a higher frequency of dysphagia and digital ulcers, whereas Japanese patients had higher modified Rodnan skin score and prevalence of positive anticontromere antibodies. The current disease status and morbimortality were similar in both groups.

CONCLUSION

In the present study, MyoSScOS affected middle-aged women, and its manifestation spectrum varies according to geographic distribution.

KEYWORDS

Systemic sclerosis, Dermatomyositis, Inflammatory myopathies, Myositis, Polymyositis.