ABSTRACT BOOK
ABSTRACTS

24TH WORLD CONGRESS OF DERMATOLOGY
MILAN 2019

A new ERA for global Dermatology
10 – 15 JUNE 2019
MILAN, ITALY

ATOPIC ECZEMA/DERMATITIS

ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN ADULTS IN TUNISIA : A PROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Introduction: Atopic dermatitis(AD) is a chronic and recurrent inflammatory dermatosis. The AD in adults seems to be an underestimated form.

Objectif: The aim of this study was to investigate epidemiologic and clinical features of adults suffering from AD.

Materials and methodes: This is a prospective study conducted in dermatology department of Monastir(Tunisia). We collected all cases of adults suffering from AD (> 16 years old) between January 2017 and June 2018. The diagnosis of AD was clinically established by a dermatologist and an expert in AD. The diagnostic criteria of AD (Hanifin and Rajka, Williams and REACH) were applied to patients. We compared AD cases in adults versus childhood.

Results : We have collected 27 cases of AD in adults and 114 cases in childhood (19%). Middle age of AD in adults was 39 years. The average age of beginning of the DA was 30 years. The adult-onset was noted in 22 of patients (81.5%). The sensitivities of the diagnostics criteria for both adult and pediatric populations were respectively 88.9% and 90.4% for the Hanifin and Rajka criteria, 48.1% and 55.3% for the UK criteria and 74.1% and 45.6% for the REACH criteria. The Mean SCORAD in adults was 36.18 (42.8 for the persistent form and 34.7 for the adult-onset form) with a statistically significant difference (p<0.05).

Conclusions: In our study, AD in adults was not rare. The average age of onset was very late. The adult-onset form was the most common. The UK criteria were not sensitive to the diagnosis of AD in Tunisia and this could be explained by the late onset and the frequency of the inverted forms. REACH criteria appear to be more sensitive among adults, although they are designed to be applied in childhood. The persistent form of AD in adult was significantly more severe.

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MILAN 2019

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