



AUTOIMMUNE CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

## EPIDEMIO-CLINICAL PROFILE AND PROGNOSIS OF BEHCET DISEASE IN DERMATOLOGY: A STUDY OF 79 CASES

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Behcet disease is a multisystemic vasculitis characterized by a wide spectrum including cutaneous manifestations and visceral ones. The prognosis depends on the severity of the symptoms and the organs affected.

We have conducted a retrospective study based on the cases of 79 patients with Behcet disease in the Dermatology department of Ibn Rochd University hospital in Casablanca Morocco. The inclusion criteria were those of the International Study Group of Behcet Disease.

Seventy nine patients were included in the study; there were fifty-seven men and twenty-two women. The average age when the diagnosis was made was 30 and a half year. The frequency of the cutaneous manifestations was as follows: mouth ulcers in 94.93%, genital ulcers in 77.21%, pseudo folliculitis in 67.08%, 48.10% were men, dermo-hypodermic nodules in 16.45% and a positive pathergy test in 35.44%.

Extra-cutaneous symptoms were dominated by joint damage noticed in 34.44% of the cases, 26.58% were women. Anterior uveitis was noted in 29.11% patients. 22.78% of men had anterior uveitis. 25.11% had vein thrombosis which was mostly observed in men with a percentage of 16.45.

Neurological signs were observed in 12.65% of the cases.

Our study confirms male dominance of Behcet disease in Mediterranean and Middle East countries. However, the clinical profile varies based on gender. We have noticed a higher frequency of cutaneous symptoms in men especially the pseudofolliculitis. It can precede or occur simultaneously to the other systemic symptoms. Vascular injury and ocular signs are very important prognostic factors.

Ocular involvement is very common and potentially severe since it may lead to blindness. Vascular injury is dominated by vein thrombosis. Male patients are the most severely and frequently affected in our study.

The prognosis is more serious in male patients. This could be linked to a pathophysiological mechanism.

