ABSTRACT BOOK ABSTRACTS



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

AUTOIMMUNE CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF 619 ITALIAN PATIENTS WITH CUTANEOUS LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

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INTRODUCTION: Cutaneous lupus erythematosus (CLE) is a chronic autoimmune inflammatory disease with a wide clinical spectrum. Cutaneous lesions can represent the only sign of LE but can be associated with systemic involvement. Few studies have analyzed the epidemiological characteristics of patients with CLE.

OBJECTIVE: The aim of this study was to describe the epidemiological, clinical, and immunological characteristics of a series of Italian patients diagnosed with CLE.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Consecutive patients with CLE were recruited from eight regional hospitals throughout Italy as part of a multicenter study. Demographic, clinical and laboratory data were collected at the time of diagnosis. Baseline differences in age, sex, clinical features and autoantibody profile were evaluated in each subgroup using Fisher's exact test for categorical variables and the nonparametric unpaired Wilcoxon test for continuous variables.

RESULTS: 619 patients were recruited: 589 had specific and diagnostic manifestations of CLE, 30 (4.8%) presented with LE-nonspecific skin lesions only, and 130 (21.1%) featured both specific and diagnostic and LE-nonspecific lesions. 160 patients (25.8%) had systemic LE (SLE).







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The most common CLE subtypes included chronic CLE (CCLE), followed by subacute CLE (SCLE), intermittent CLE (ICLE) and acute CLE (ACLE). Patients with CCLE and ICLE had a lower prevalence of SLE, while a strong association among ACLE and SLE was found. The most frequently reported LE-nonspecific skin lesions were Raynaud's phenomenon, diffuse non-scarring alopecia, livedo reticularis, urticarial leukocytoclastic vasculitis, palpable and periungual telangiectasia.

Concerning the associations between demographic, clinical characteristics and autoantibodies, ANA (p<0.0001), anti-dsDNA (p<0.0001), ENA (p=0.001), anti-Sm (p=0.001) and anti-RNP (p=0.004), were associated with SLE. Positive ANA and positive anti-dsDNA had a higher prevalence among females. Anti-Sm antibodies were demonstrated even in SCLE patients without systemic involvement (OR=2.95, p=0.004).

CONCLUSIONS: The present study provides important information on autoantibody profile in a cohort of 619 CLE patients.





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