



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CLINICAL ASPECTS AMONG TUNISIAN PATIENTS

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Introduction: Although hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is clinically defined with recognizable physical characteristics, it remains often under recognized with significant delay in diagnosis.

Objective: We aimed to analyze the epidemiological and clinical profile of this affection in Tunisia.

Material and methods: A cross-sectional, descriptive study was conducted based on clinical assessment of patients undergoing outpatient dermatology clinics in central Tunisia for HS from 1st May 2016 to 1st June 2018. Characteristics of patients and disease severity were assessed.

Results: A total of 54 patients (40 males and 14 females) were included. The average patient's age at diagnosis was 39 years [range 18-62 years]. The average at onset was 25,2 years with 16,7% of patients having onset before 16 years of age. The diagnostic delay was $9,4 \pm 11,2$ years. The diagnosis was made by a dermatologist in 96%. Active lesions were localized in axilla (89%), groin area (74%), breasts (18,5%), buttocks (52%), cervical 33% and scalp 37%. Lesions of mammary and perineum area were more noticed in women ($p < 0,001$). Follicular phenotype was predominant in our patient (55,6%) followed by axillary-mammary phenotype (35,2%) and gluteal. In follicular group, a significant association was found with male gender, acne conglobata ($p < 0,001$) and comedones ($p = 0,029$). The axillary-mammary class was characterized by higher proportions of women ($p = 0,03$). Disease was severe in 83% (Hurley II et III) with no significant difference between the 3 phenotypes. Smoking was associated with higher severity ($p = 0,019$) mainly in follicular group ($p = 0,036$).

Conclusion: According to our study, the profile of Tunisian patient with HS was characterized by the predominance of follicular phenotype which was associated with male gender, acne





and active smoking. As reported in literature the mammary and perineal lesions were found mainly in female patients. Identifying the epidemiological and clinical profile of patients is crucial to optimize treatment of HS that is still disappointing.

