

PSORIASIS

PREVALENCE AND INCIDENCE OF LATENT TUBERCULOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE PSORIASIS UNDER SYSTEMIC TREATMENT IN THE DERMATOLOGY SERVICE OF THE HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO AUSTRAL.

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Introduction: Psoriasis is a chronic and multisystemic inflammatory disease that affects 1 to 3% of the general population. Currently, the use of biological therapies for patients with moderate to severe psoriasis is growing, because of their greater efficacy and lower adverse effects rate. Guidelines for the management of these patients emphasize the obligation to rule out an active and latent tuberculosis (TB) infection before prescription. In 2016, the incidence rate of tuberculosis in Argentina was 26.5 per 100000 inhabitants.

Objective: describe the prevalence and incidence of latent tuberculosis in patients with moderate to severe psoriasis under systemic treatment, evaluated at the Psoriasis Unit of the Hospital Universitario Austral from January 2012 to August 2018.

Materials and methods: Descriptive, cross-sectional study and retrospective cohort. The data were obtained from the electronic hospital medical records. All patients with psoriasis diagnose under systemic treatment and PPD testing were included. The qualitative variables, nominal and ordinal, were analyzed using percentages. Continuous numerical quantitative variables were analyzed using means and standard deviations. Both prevalence and incidence were reported as proportion with 95% CI (confidence interval).

Results: Ninety three patients met the inclusion criteria. Of these, 67% (62) were men. The predominant clinical form was plaque psoriasis 77% (71) and 48% (45) presented severe psoriasis. The prevalence of latent tuberculosis was 16% (95% CI 0.085- 0.234). The incidence rate was 5% per year (95% CI 0.0242 - 0.0718).

Conclusions: There is a constant increase of patients with moderate to severe psoriasis who require immunosuppressive systemic treatments. The search for underlying TB infection is mandatory, especially in Argentina, where it is still a public health problem.