



PSORIASIS

PREVALENCE OF SCALP PSORIASIS AND ITS POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION WITH JOINT INVOLVEMENT: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF 1218 CASES

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Background: Psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory disease of the skin and joints, mediated by a genetically-based immune system. It is characterized by a large clinical polymorphism and in up to 30% of cases there may be potentially disabling joint involvement, which is more common in some clinical forms such as nail psoriasis. Considering scalp psoriasis, there is no consensus about association with joint involvement.

Objective: To demonstrate the prevalence of scalp involvement in patients with psoriasis and its relation to joint impairment.

Materials and Methods: A cross-sectional, descriptive and retrospective study of 1218 medical records of the psoriasis department of a hospital in Rio de Janeiro, evaluating the variables: scalp involvement, gender, presence of joint complaint and treatment. It was considered joint involvement: inflammatory arthralgia, presence of arthritis, enthesitis or dactylitis. Disease severity was correlated to the use of systemic treatment.

Results: Sample of 1218 patients, being 53% women. Scalp involvement was observed in 777 (64%) patients, of which 396 (51%) were males and 381 (49%) were females. Males were more likely to be associated with scalp psoriasis (OR 1.49, 95% CI, 1.18-1.89, $p < 0.001$). From the 286 patients with joint involvement, 67% had scalp psoriasis, and from the 932 patients without joint involvement, this affection was present in 63%, showing no greater probability of association (OR 1.19, 95% CI, 0.9-1.57, $p = 0.229$). In the group of patients undergoing systemic treatment, 373 (71%) had scalp involvement, compared to 404 (59%) patients under topical or phototherapy treatment with a significant association probability (OR 0.59, 95% CI, 0.47-0.75, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: In our study, we observed a high prevalence of scalp involvement, compatible with the literature. Scalp psoriasis did not present as a risk factor for joint involvement, however, there was a relation with greater severity of the disease among men.

