



PSORIASIS

ULTRASONOGRAPHY IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND FOLLOW-UP OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

A Albuquerque⁽¹⁾ - V Albuquerque⁽²⁾ - J Sherlock⁽²⁾ - M Saraiva⁽²⁾

Federal University Of Sergipe, Department Of Medicine, Aracaju, Brazil⁽¹⁾ - Federal University Of Sergipe, University Hospital, Aracaju, Brazil⁽²⁾

INTRODUCTION: Psoriatic arthritis is a seronegative spondyloarthropathy associated with cutaneous psoriasis. Recent studies have shown that 6 to 42% of patients with psoriasis develop some type of joint involvement. Ultrasonography has recently been highlighted as a complementary diagnostic method for spondyloarthropathies due to its ability to detect synoves, bone erosion and inflammatory activity in pre-radiographic phases.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Fifteen psoriasis-diagnosed patients underwent ultrasound examinations of joints and were followed up at the Dermatology Service of a University Hospital who reported complaints of joint pain in small and / or large joints. During the examination, Doppler evaluation was used to estimate inflammatory activity.

RESULTS: Most of the examined patients (86.7%) were on systemic treatment for psoriasis, some associated with corticosteroids (13.3%). At the doppler fluxometric evaluation of joint amplitude, positivity (Image 1) was observed in 46.7% of the investigated patients, indicating inflammatory activity. Regarding the clinical forms, 66.7% had asymmetric oligoarthritis and 33.3% had symmetric polyarthritis. Positive-Doppler patients showed higher quality of life scores suggesting negative impact of joint activity in these cases. Patients with ultrasonographic evidence of active psoriatic arthritis initiated immunobiological therapy. One of these patients was reevaluated after three months of initiation of therapy, showing no flow at the Doppler fluxography, indicating control of the inflammatory process.

CONCLUSIONS: Studies with psoriatic arthritis and Doppler flowmetry are important for the knowledge of the early ultrasonographic findings of this pathology. Using this diagnostic method in clinical practice may be a better cost alternative, useful in the early stages of psoriatic arthritis.

