IRA **E-BULLETTIN**

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MADE IN INDIA

Vasculitis

May this New Year 2020 be the most amazing and jubilant year of your life!

Sharma A et al.1 evaluated the role of F-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET/CT in 25 patients of relapsing polychondritis. At the time of diagnosis when imaging findings were correlated with clinical symptoms, PET/CT identified asymptomatic large airway involvement in seven cases. Re-examination of PET/CT in ten patients revealed complete or partial therapeutic response, disease progression, or disease recurrence. They concluded that FDG PET/CT is a useful tool for identifying clinically inaccessible sites that are clinically significant, assessing disease activity and treatment response, and also finding disease relapse.

Nandi A et al.2 in their prospective observational study evaluated the role of IL6 and CRP in predicting coronary changes and treatment response among 75 patients of Kawasaki disease. They found that both these biomarkers were significantly raised before initiating treatment in patients who developed coronary artery lesions (CALs) when compared to those patients who did not develop CALs. Post IVIG (after 48 hours), serum levels of IL6 were significantly elevated in non-responders when compared to responders. They concluded that higher levels of IL6 and CRP at diagnosis are associated with occurrence of CALs and IVIG resistance in Kawasaki disease. They also suggested that by using the cut-off for these biomarkers from this study, chances of developing CALs and IVIG resistance can be predicted, which might prevent the development of future complications like aneurysms in such patients.

Systemic Sclerosis

Adarsh M B et al.3 in their prospective observational study assessed the utility of gastric emptying half time (GE-T1/2) in gastric scintigraphy, as a quantitative measure to assess the gastric emptying in 33 patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc). The mean GE-T1/2 correlated with delayed gastric emptying by consensus recommendations (which gives qualitative assessment of dysmotility by demonstrating delayed gastric emptying). They concluded that GE-T1/2 can be considered as a quantitative tool in assessing gastric emptying in SSc along with consensus recommendations, and may help in regular assessment of the gastrointestinal system for treatment response or disease progression.

Janardana R et al.4 studied clinical and autoantibody profile of 327 systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients using electronic medical records. Of these, 310 had Diffuse SSc, 13 had Limited SSc, and four had sine scleroderma. Scl-70 antibody was positive in 74.9% of patients. A significant association of Scl-70 positivity was seen with the presence of interstitial lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, and age less than 40 years. They concluded that strong correlation of Scl-70 antibody with younger age and pulmonary hypertension were unique features of their cohort.

Lupus

Pinto B et al.5 evaluated sexual functioning and its association with disease activity, damage, marital satisfaction, fatigue, and psychiatric comorbidity in 112 premenopausal married women with SLE. Impaired sexual functioning was found in 60.7% of patients. They also found that a higher dose of steroids, disease activity, depression, anxiety, and marital satisfaction were associated with poor sexual functioning.

Thabah M M et al.6 reported a case of SLE with Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder [longitudinally extensive transverse myelitis and antibodies to aquaporin 4 IgG (AQP4-IgG)] as a first manifestation. They also discussed six similar cases reported in literature where this was the first manifestation of lupus.

Pinto P et al.7 aimed to validate the Hindi version of Lupus PRO in 144 SLE patients in India. They noted good convergent validity of Lupus PRO domains with corresponding domains of SF-36, pain vitality with fatigue (FSS), emotional health domain with depression (PHQ9), and anxiety (GAD7). They concluded that the Hindi Lupus PRO has fair psychometric properties among Indian patients with SLE.

Ganapati A et al.8 studied familial aggregation of autoimmune rheumatic diseases (AIRD) in 157 SLE patients and compared patients having a positive and negative family history (three generations) of autoimmunity. AIRD were seen in families of 24.8% patients, with SLE being the commonest and rheumatoid arthritis being second common. AIRD as a whole and SLE alone were seen more commonly with parental consanguinity. Familial aggregation in SLE patients also showed a relatively higher percentage of affected males and lesser presentation with constitutional features than sporadic SLE patients.

Miscellaneous

Sundaram T G et al.9 reported a rare and interesting case of microsporidial myositis in a 55-year–old male who presented with gradual onset proximal muscle weakness. He was also found to have adult onset immunodeficiency, and a concomitant cytomegalovirus infection. They also reviewed a total of 20 reported cases of microsporidial myositis.

Kumar A et al.10 reported a case of livedoid vasculopathy in a 55-year-old female with 12 years of history of non-healing leg ulcers.

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