

Clinical and epidemiological features of psoriasis in HIV-infected patients

Roxana Petre^{*1}, Adriana Hristea^{1,2}, Raluca Jipa¹, Ruxandra Moroti-Constantinescu^{1,2}, Popescu M.Catalin^{2,3}, Iulia Niculescu^{1,2}, Lia Cavaropol¹, Violeta Molagic¹, Catalin Tiliscan^{1,2}, Victoria Arama^{1,2}

1. The National Institute for Infectious Diseases "Prof Dr Matei Bals", Bucharest (RO) 2. "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest (RO)
3. "Colentina" Hospital Bucharest

Introduction and Purpose

•Background:

The prevalence of psoriasis in HIV infected population has been reported between 2.5% (Braun-Falco 1988) and 4.9% (Schofer 1990). Psoriasis associated with HIV infection can be divided into two clinical groups, depending on the onset in relation to HIV infection. In the first group, psoriasis appears before HIV infection and there is often a positive family history. In the second group, psoriasis appears after HIV infection.

•Objective:

To evaluate the prevalence of HIV infections in patients with psoriasis and to describe clinical and laboratory changes in HIV positive patients as compared with HIV non-infected patients.

Methods

Retrospective observational study of patients with psoriasis investigated in a national reference hospital in infectious diseases, in Bucharest, between January 2009 and October 2013. The psoriasis diagnosis was made by a dermatologist. We included only patients for whom HIV test was performed.



Results

We reviewed the records for 600 patients with psoriasis of which 272 were tested for HIV infection. Twenty two patients (8%) were HIV positive. HIV positive patients had a median age of 44 (IQR 27-53) and 13 (59%) were male, while HIV negative patients had a median age 48 (IQR 38-57) and 103 (41%) were male.

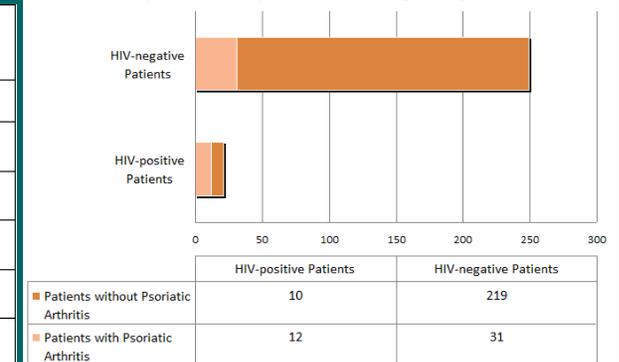
Sixteen HIV positive patients had severe psoriasis (73%) compared to 51 (20%) HIV negative patients ($p < 0.001$; OR=10.2, 95% CI [3.9-29.9]). Twelve (55%) HIV positive patients had psoriatic arthritis compared to 31 (12%) HIV negative patients ($p < 0.001$; OR=8.3, 95% CI [3.3-21.6]). In 7 (32%) HIV positive patients, psoriasis appeared after HIV diagnosis with a median duration of 31 months. At the time of psoriasis diagnosis 5 (71%) patients were in clinical HIV stage C2.

In 9 (60%) out of 15 patients with psoriasis diagnosed before HIV infection, the HIV stage was B3. HIV positive patients characteristics are shown in table. Eighteen patients under antiretroviral therapy have had a favorable outcome of both HIV infection and psoriasis. Out of 4 non-adherent patients, 2 died.

Characteristics of HIV-infected patients depending of psoriasis onset

	Onset of psoriasis before HIV diagnosis	Onset of psoriasis after HIV diagnosis	p value
Male, N (%)	11 (73)	2 (29)	0.070
Median age (years)(median, IQR)	46 (40-57)	26 (20-37)	0.005
Severe generalized psoriasis, N (%)	10 (67)	6 (86)	0.415
Psoriatic arthritis N (%)	8 (53)	4 (57)	0.883
CD4 count (cells/mm ³) (median, IQR)	177 (129-209)	215 (177-331)	0.149
HIV- Viral Load (copies/mL)(median, IQR)	109.000 (43.000-223.700)	302.000 (175.000-558.000)	0.027

HIV-positive compared to HIV-negative patients



Conclusions

In our population the prevalence of psoriasis in HIV- infected patients was higher than previously reported. Severe psoriasis including arthritis is more often seen in HIV infected patients. The use of antiretroviral therapy improves psoriasis evolution.

References

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- <http://www.aad.org/File%20Library/Global%20navigation/Education%20and%20quality%20care/Guidelines-psoriasis-sec-1.pdf>