



Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Focus on cutaneous manifestations in a Tunisian cohort .

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Introduction:

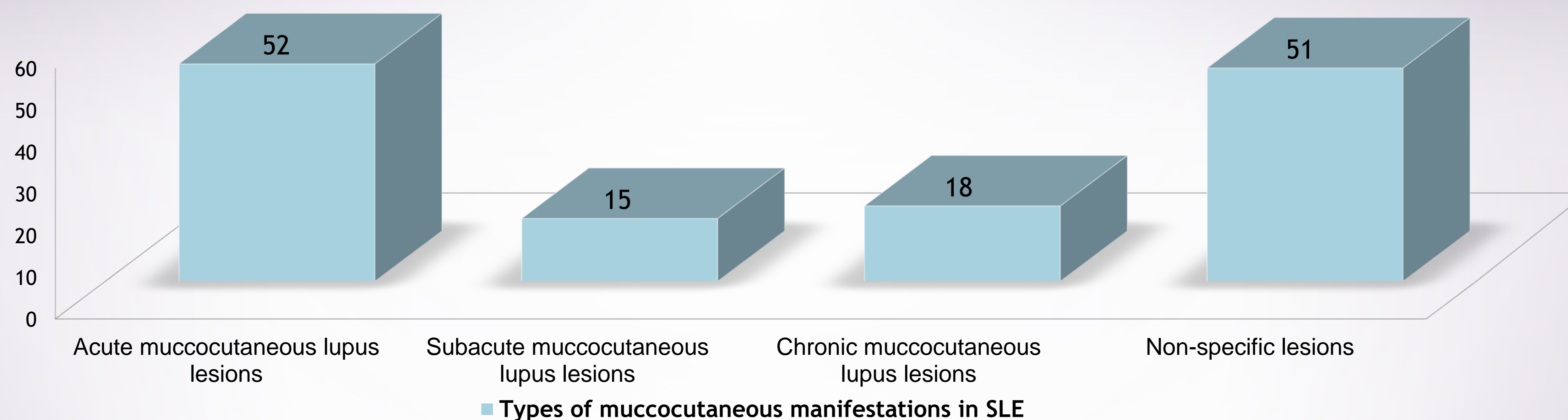
- Cutaneous manifestations during systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) are frequent regardless of the severity of the disease. A great diversity of cutaneous symptoms may be observed. We aimed to describe the epidemiology and clinical features of these manifestations in a Tunisian cohort.

Patients and methods:

- A retrospective study included 62 patients with cutaneous manifestations of SLE during a 14 years period between 2006 and 2020.

Results:

- This study included 59 women and 3 men (sex ratio: 0.05), mean age was 37.6 year old (16-74 year old).
- Cutaneous lesions involved the face in 50 patients: malar rash (30 cases: 48%), discoid lupus (16 cases: 26%), lupus tumidus (1 case: 1.6%) and oedematous erythema (1 case: 1.6%). Extensive bullous lesions were observed in one patient and diffuse annular lesions of the trunk were noted in 14 patients (19%).
- Other manifestations were : alopecia (17 cases:27%), oral ulcers (15 cases: 20%), Raynaud syndrome (11 cases: 18%), nasal ulcers (5 cases: 8%), vascular purpura (4 cases: 6%), palmo-plantar erythema (4 cases: 6%), leg ulcer (4 cases: 6%), digital necrosis (4 cases: 6%), digital ulcers (3 cases: 5%), livedo (3 cases: 5%), hyperpigmentation (1 case 1,6%) and Lupus panniculitis (1 case 1.6%).
- Cutaneous biopsy was performed in 7 cases (11%) and lupus band test was requested in 3 cases (5%).
- Nuclear antibodies were highly positive in 57 cases (71%).



Conclusion:

- A great variety of cutaneous and mucosal symptoms may be related to SLE. While common lesions such as malar rash don't usually present a diagnosis challenge, less specific lesions are frequent as observed in our study. Such lesions may require skin biopsy in order to ascertain their origins.