



Influence of associated auto immune diseases in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus



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Introduction:

Our objective is to know whether systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is more severe when isolated or associated with another autoimmune disease.

Patients and methods:

A retrospective study conducted among patients with SLE (ACR revised criteria). We compared 2 groups: patients with isolated SLE (ISLE) and those with associated SLE to another autoimmune disease (ASLE). Variables with a $p \leq 0.05$ were considered to be statistically significant

Results:

A total of 80 females (89.9%) and 9 males (10.1%) (sex ratio F/M was 8.9) were included. Mean age was 35.3 (14 to 72 years). SLE was isolated in 50 patients (56.1%) and associated to another autoimmune disease in 39 cases (43.9%) (Fig 1),

SLE was associated to more than one autoimmune disease in 13 cases (11.6%). Comparative study between ISLE and ASLE showed no significant difference between age onset or sex ratio. Patients with ISLE seem to have more cutaneous manifestations and more photosensitivity but without significant difference ($p= 0.076$, $p=0.082$ respectively). Immunological findings showed that anti SSA and anti SSB antibodies were significantly associated to ASLE ($p=0.007$ and $p=0.013$ respectively) (table 1). We found no difference in biological findings or SLEDAI score.

Fig1: associated autoimmune diseases during SLE

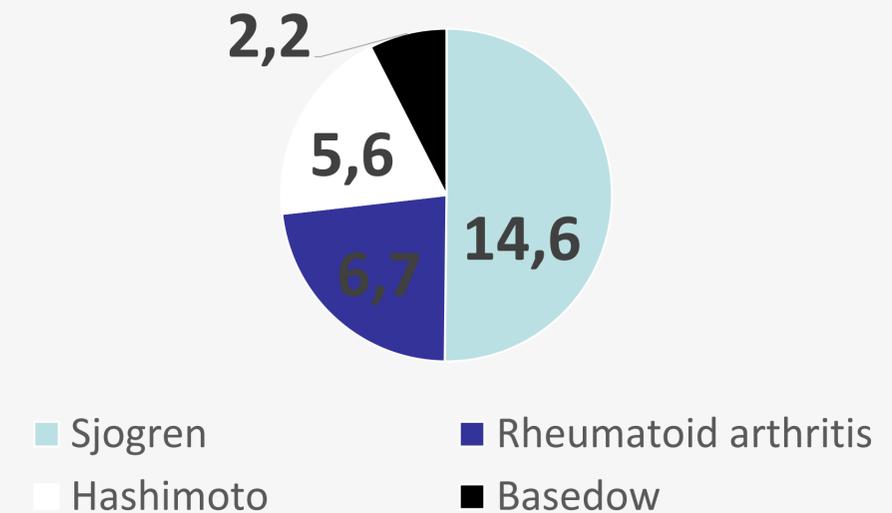


Table 1: comparative study between ISLE and ASLE

	ISLE (n=50) (56.1%)	ASLE (n=39)(43.9%)	P
Cutaneous manifestations	94	82.1	0.076
Photosensitivity	74	56.4	0.082
Anti SSA	40.5	72.7	0.007
Anti SSB	24.3	52.9	0.013

Conclusion:

ASLE seems to develop less specific cutaneous manifestations and to show more frequently positive anti SSA and anti SSB antibodies. When associated to other auto immune diseases SLE doesn't seem to be more severe