



Gender influence in systemic lupus erythematosus

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Introduction :

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is more frequent in women than men with sex ratio F/M= 8/1, but whether it's more severe or not, is not clear we aimed to study clinical, biological and immunological features of SLE in men

Methods :

It's a retrospective study conducted in an internal medicine department. Patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (ACR revised criteria) were included. Data were recorded and compared using SPSS. Variables with a $p \leq 0.05$ were considered to be statistically significant.

Table 1: comparative study between males and females

| Manifestations | Males (n=9) (10.1%) | Females (n= 80) (89.9%) | P |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Mean age (years) | 36.9 | 35 | Ns |
| Familiar history | 22.2 | 3.8 | 0.078 |
| Cutaneous involvement | 33.3 | 70 | 0.027 |
| Renal manifestations | 15.6 | 26.3 | 0.078 |
| Hemolytic anemia | 22.2 | 1.3 | 0.027 |
| Respiratory manifestations | 55.6 | 25 | 0.066 |

Résultats :

A total of consecutive 89 SLE patients were included: 80 female (89.9%) and 9 male (10.1%) (sex ratio F/M was 8.9). Comparative study between males and females is reported in table 1.

History of familiar SLE was more frequent in males than females (22.2% vs 3.8%; $p = 0.078$ (Fisher test)). Photosensitivity, cutaneous and renal involvement were significantly more frequent in females (70% vs 33.3%; $p=0.027$ and 26.3% vs 15.6%; $p=0.078$ respectively). Whereas hemolytic auto immune anemia and respiratory complications were more frequent in males (22.2% vs 1.3%; $p = 0.027$ and 55.6% vs 25% $p=0.066$ respectively). There were no differences in articular, cardiac or neurological manifestations. Biological and immunological findings were similar too.

Conclusion :

it seems that males are more prone to develop SLE when they have familiar history of this disease. They develop more frequently pulmonary manifestations and hemolytic auto immune anemia. These results should be confirmed by other prospective studies.