



## **CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND TREATMENT PROFILE OF PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS' PATIENTS IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL AND ITS RELATIONS WITH SACROILIITIS IN MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING AND CHARACTERIZATION OF SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

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### **BACKGROUND**

Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a pathology which is characterized by its varied clinical presentations, which have direct correlation to the institutionalized pharmacological therapy. This study aims to assess which are the main clinical findings of a cohort and the major drugs used, and the correlation between the clinical presentations and sacroiliitis, while also describing epidemiological variables related to the studied group.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A cross-sectional study was fulfilled with forty-five patients with the disease who were followed up at the outpatient clinic of rheumatology of a tertiary hospital in Fortaleza, Brazil, who underwent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the sacroiliac joints. Two independent radiologists observed the degree of concordance for sacroiliitis by the Kappa coefficient. Clinical symptomatology of sacroiliitis was also evaluated.

### **RESULTS**

The main clinical manifestations of arthritis are as it follows: 68,9% present as symmetric polyarticular, 22,2% as both asymmetrical oligoarticular and spondylitis and 3% as mutilans. Ungueal involvement was observed in 31% of the cohort, while dactylitis, enthesitis and uveitis were observed in, respectively, 40%, 51,1% and 4,4%. Regarding treatment, most patients were not using nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (73,3%), while 91,1% didn't use corticosteroids and 64,4% weren't being medicated with immunobiologicals. 40% reported previous use of corticosteroids. The p value for association of clinical presentation with sacroiliitis was of 0,637, 0,286, 0,948, 0,250, 1,000, 0,467, 0,547 and 1,000, respectively for symmetrical polyarticular arthritis, ungueal involvement, enthesitis, dactylitis, oligoarticular symmetrical manifestation, spondylitis, mutilans arthritis and uveitis. In this context, contrary to our findings, another study shows higher prevalence of uveitis in patients with sacroiliitis. The age varied between 25 and 78 years, with a mean of 50,1 years and a standard deviation of 11,5 years. The male/female ratio was almost equivalent, being 51,1% of the patients of female sex and 48,9% of male sex. The majority of patients was of non-white ethnicity (95,6%). There was a bigger prevalence of patients amongst the income range of 1 to 3 minimum wages and the mean of formal education time was of 9,5 years, with a mean deviation of 3,8 years.

### **CONCLUSION**

There were no significant association between sacroiliitis findings for the oligoarthritis, mutilans arthritis, dactylitis, ungueal affection and enthesitis. In addition, the epidemiological results of the research are found to be corroborating with literature data found in Brazil, except for the ethnicity variable.