



MANAGEMENT OF EXTRA-ARTICULAR MANIFESTATIONS IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION: Spondyloarthritis (SpA) defines a heterogeneous group of diseases sharing certain etiopathogenic factors, clinical features and therapeutical options, therefore being closely related disorders it is difficult to *differentiate them*. The most typical and frequent clinical manifestations are the inflammation of the axial skeleton, *asymmetric* oligoarthritis, dactylitis and enthesitis. The condition may also cause inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract, *urogenital tract*, eyes, skin, neurologic and cardiovascular systems. **MATERIALS AND METHODS:** A systematic search of the published literature related to SpA was conducted using the Medscape database from the past five years. To identify the articles, the search procedure followed key words like "spondyloarthritis", "extra-articular manifestations", "tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors" and "spondylarthritis treatment".

A total of 2680 titles were identified by the bibliographic database. The title, abstract or full article was reviewed for relevance; any article not related to extra-articular manifestations was excluded.

RESULTS: The published data has revealed that over the past years, *immune-mediated rheumatic diseases* have acquired spectacular progress in all fields - starting from the genetic and molecular mechanisms that stand at the pathogenesis basis of autoimmunity until applying this knowledge into developing new therapy. The progress is most significant in the spondyloarthritis group.

CONCLUSIONS: Looking beyond these therapeutical strategies, for example the "treat-to-target" in SpA, it is evaluated if these aggressive therapies will prevent the occurrence of the extra-articular manifestations and will change the natural history of the disease. New clinical studies with careful design are required to cover the whole spectrum of the extra-articular manifestations of SpA in order to confirm these results.