

197 Galappathy, P; Wazeel, AN; Kudalugoda Arachchi, J; Mezamia, N; Fernando, SSD; **Sheriff, MHR**

Descriptive study of SLE patients followed up in the University of Colombo Lupus Research Clinic; Abstract Sri Lanka Medical Association - 112th Annual Academic Sessions 1999_.24pp

Abstract :Introduction: The university lupus research clinic follows up patients admitted or referred to the University Medical Unit with diagnosed or suspected SLE.Objectives: To find the number of patients in the lupus clinic with confirmed SLE, those with related diseases, visceral involvement, treatment, and out come. Methods: Data was collected on registering patients. They were followed up prospectively. This clinic has been functioning for 3 years and a preliminary analysis is presented. Results: There were 90 patients. 78 (87%) had a clinical diagnosis of SLE. Others had related auto-immune diseases (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis, MCTD, auto-immune hepatitis, ITP etc). There were 6 patients(7%) with antiphospholipid antibody syndrome (APS). Only 61 patients (78%) satisfied the American Rheumatological Association (ARA) criteria for diagnosis of SLE. 4 (7%) patients with SLE had overlap syndrome, and 2 had SLE with APS. The mean age of SLE patients was 32 years (range 16-58). There were 57 females (93%) and 4 males (7%). Mean duration of disease was 7 years (range <1 year - 15 years). 53 SLE patients (87%) had visceral involvement. These were 43 (70%) with renal, 34 (56%) with hematological, 21 (34%) with neurological and 8(13%) with cardiopulmonary involvement. 49 patients (80%) had evidence of visceral involvement at diagnosis. 57 SLE patients were treated with prednisolone, and 43 (70%) with azathioprine and 22 (36%) with cyclophosphamide. There were 3 deaths (5"10).One patient had CRF. 3 patients (5%) underwent successful pregnancies. Conclusions: Auto-immune diseases other than SLE should also be considered in patients suspected of having SLE. Some patients with a clinical diagnosis of SLE did he not satisfy ARA criteria for the diagnosis of the disease. The majority With SLE has visceral involvement and needed treatment with immuno-suppressants. Incidence of of death was 5%, for a mean duration of illness of 7 years