Psoriatic arthritis: an evolving matter

Daniel Wendling

Psoriatic arthritis is a multifaceted disease, raising the discussion of its position between a single isolated disease or a part or subset of spondyloarthritis. New developments in the several fields of knowledge are paving the way for a new look at this disease.

A STORY OF CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

Several sets of criteria were proposed over the years for classifying psoriatic arthritis. Recent are the CASPAR criteria. The patient must have inflammatory articular disease (joint, spine or entheses) with three points from the following five categories: (1) evidence of current psoriasis or a personal or familial history of psoriasis; (2) typical psoriatic nail dystrophy; (3) absence of rheumatoid factor; (4) current dactylitis or a history of dactylitis; (5) radiographic evidence of juxta articular new bone formation. A score of 2 is assigned to current psoriasis; all other features are assigned a score of 1. These classification criteria allow the inclusion of many patients and various clinical phenotypes (including axial forms) in a definition of psoriatic arthritis. The question is if psoriatic arthritis fits into the spondyloarthritides frame too. Over the past few years, the ASAS group (Assessment in SpondyloArthritis international Society) developed and proposed new classification criteria for axial and peripheral forms of spondyloarthritis. These classifications allow the recognition of several clinical or phenotypical presentations of the disease: axial spondyloarthritis, radiographic (corresponding to ankylosing spondylitis), non-radiographic; peripheral articular erosive or not erosive, and enthesitis spondyloarthritis. These presentations are somewhat different from the several phenotypic forms of psoriatic arthritis described earlier by Moll and Wright in 1972, but this illustrates that, in current practice, it is more the phenotypic presentation than the nosological classification that matters.

NEW TOOLS FOR EVALUATION

Evaluation of the disease is more standardised, taking into account the various aspects of the disease. Besides tools extrapolated from rheumatoid arthritis (for peripheral joints) or spondyloarthritis (for axial involvement), or dermatology (PASI skin score, Nail Psoriasis Severity Index (NAPSI) score), new instruments have been developed specifically for psoriatic arthritis. These are response criteria, and besides PSARC (psoriatic arthritis response criteria), new disease activity scores (PASDAS, Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score; MDA, Minimal Disease Activity;
been evidence-based demonstrated. Anti-TNF agents different presentations of psoriatic arthritis. Knowledge spotlight. This allows the development of treatment reinitis, the IL-23/Th17 pathway is currently under the geted therapeutic approaches. in the immune pathogenesis of the disease led to new tar-

potential targets include each of the anti-IL-23 receptor antibodies, as well as soluble rece-

new anti-IL-17A antibodies (ixekizumab), anti-p19IL-23 antibodies and anti-IL-23 receptor antibodies, as well as soluble receptors for IL-23 and IL-17.

Small molecules may also have a future in the treatment strategy of psoriatic arthritis. Apremilast, a phosphodiester-
aase four inhibitor, demonstrated significant results in several situations of psoriatic arthritis (and received recent Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval to treat adults with active psoriatic arthritis), and kinase inhibi-
bators are under evaluation in this condition.

CONCLUSION

Psoriatic arthritis is not a concept, but a live disease with a phenotypical polymorphism. There is no doubt about new developments in the future in this part of rheumatic musculoskeletal diseases.

Competing interests None.

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