COLD COMPRESS FROM CASSAVA AS A NOVEL THERAPY TO PREVENT EXACERBATIONS AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE OF LUPUS PATIENTS WITH STRESS

ESD Sari, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia
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Cassava is one of Indonesia’s natural materials that can be utilised as a basic ingredient of cold compress. New effect of cold compress founded to decrease the stress responses of Lupus patients. Purpose: to know the effects of cold compress from cassava to reduce stress responses, decrease exacerbations, and improve quality of life of patients with Lupus.

Methods
126 young adult Lupus patients with similar in sex, ethnicity, education status, and active disease activity (SLEDAI score >3) measured their stress responses and quality of life using Lupus Quality of Life Questionnaire (Lupus-QoL) (pre-test). Stress responses measured include physical responses (blood pressure, respiratory, headache scale), and insomnia using Insomnia Rating Scale (IRS), cognitive responses using Cognitive Symptoms Inventory (CSI), and emotional responses using Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS)). Lupus patients with positive stress responses were given therapy of cold compress from cassava (17–24°C) in forehead area for 20 min before bedtime for one week. Patients with cold allergies, open wounds in the compressed area, circulatory disorders, and Raynaud’s syndrome were excluded. After one week of therapy, the patients (n=114) measured SLEDAI score, stress responses, and quality of life (post-test).

Results
62% had elevated blood pressure; 68% had respiratory enhancement; 72% had moderate-to-severe headache; 68% had insomnia; 56% increased CSI score; and 62% had mild-to-severe stress level. Cold compress therapy have significant effects in decreasing stress responses including respiratory, headache, insomnia, cognitive impairment, and stress levels (p=0.08, p=0.01, p=0.00, p=0.02, and p=0.00 respectively). The SLEDAI score decreased 32% (p=0.04) and the Lupus-QoL increased 27% (p=0.03). Suspected, local effects of vasocostriction, decrease capillary permeability, and decrease temperature of prefrontal cortex in the brain by cold compress can decrease vasodilatation when headache occur and induce patients to sleep early. At bedtime, norepinephrine levels will decrease so the cognitive and emotional stress responses can be repaired. No side effects were found.

Conclusions
This is a preliminary evidence to support hypothesis of development of cold compress from cassava as stress therapy in lupus that can be used to prevent exacerbations and improve the quality of life of Lupus patients.

The aim of this work is to study the prevalence of mycobacterial infection (M.I.), the associated factors and their clinical significance in patients included in a large SLE cohort.

Methods
Retrospective descriptive study of RELESSER patients with a history of M.I. and analysis of the factors associated with the infection of this aetiology.

Results
In RELESSER, 3,658 SLE patients were included. 90% women, mean age of 32.9 years. 93% Caucasians. The mean follow-up time (±S.D.) was 120.2 (±87.6) months. 705 (19.3%) patients had at least a serious infection, 1227 serious infections occurred. M.I. were diagnosed in 42 patients (1.2% of all RELESSER patients, 3.4% of all serious infections), 85.7% women. The incidence rate of mycobacterial infection was 1 per 1000 patients/year (95% CI: 0.7 to 1.4).

M.I. presentation was pulmonary in 18 (42.9%) patients and extrapulmonary in 24 (57.1%) patients-joints in 8 (19.0%) and other sites in 10 (23.8%). The extrapulmonary form was associated with the use of immunosuppressants: 84.6% of the 13 patients treated with immunosuppressive drugs versus 44.4% of the 27 patients without (p=0.01). We did not observe this association with the use of corticosteroids.

To study the factors associated with mycobacterial infection, we performed a bivariate analysis including the variables associated with severe infection identified in RELESSER (age, sex, ethnicity, use of corticosteroids, immunosuppressants, antimalarials, previous admission by SLE activity, use of rituximab, use of anti-TNF, Katz severity index, SDI damage index, SLE-DAI activity index and Charlson comorbidity index). There is a statistically significant association with previous admission by SLE activity (RR: 2.9, 95% CI: 1.3 to 6.2, p=0.007), renal impairment (RR: 2.0, 95% CI: 1.1 to 3.7, p=0.04), the Katz
score (RR: 2.1, 95% CI: 1.1–4.0, p=0.04) and the Charlson index (RR: 2.5; 95% CI: 1.3 to 4.8, p=0.009). The accumulated damage (SDI>0) was closely associated with significance: RR: 2.0; 95% CI: 1.0 to 4.0, p=0.07. The use of immunosuppressants was associated with a significant increase in the risk of mycobacterial infection: RR: 4.3; 95% CI: 2.2 to 8.3, p=0.01.

Two patients (4.8%) died (1 respiratory and 1 extrapulmonary). The mean survival after diagnosis in these cases was 21 days.

Conclusion M.I. in RELESSER affects 1.15% of patients. Its incidence rate is 1 per 1000 patients/year (95% CI: 0.7 to 1.4). Extrapulmonary localization affects more than half of the patients and is associated with the use of immunosuppressants. Previous admission by SLE activity, renal involvement, severity of SLE, and increased number of associated comorbidities are factors associated with the existence of mycobacterial infection.

**HEMOPHAGOCYTIC SYNDROME IN PATIENTS FROM SLE REGISTRY FROM THE SPANISH SOCIETY OF RHEUMATOLOGY (RELESSER)**

1. A. I. Iglesias, 1E. de Toro-Santos, 2A. Z. E., 3M. Galindo, 4E. Uriarte, 5F. R. Figueroa, 6J. M. Pepe-Regois. 1University Hospital A Coruña, A Coruña, Spain; 2University Hospital Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, Spain; 3University Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain; 4University Hospital Donostia, San Sebastián, Spain; 5University Hospital Dr Negrín, Gran Canaria, Spain; 6University Hospital Meixoeiro-EOX, Vigo, Spain

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**Background** SLE in our area presents hematologic manifestations in approximately 70% of cases. Some of them are very rare, there are no large series whose analysis could provide relevant information.

**Objectives** To study the characteristics of patients with Hemophagocytic Syndrome (HS) in a large sample of SLE patients.

**Methods** SLE patients from RELESSER database were studied. We analysed the SLE manifestations present at 12 domains (mucocutaneous, renal, musculoskeletal, constitutional, hematologic, vascular, cardiac, respiratory, neuropsychiatric, gastrointestinal, ophthalmic and serological) before, during and after HS diagnosis and until the last available assessment. We studied activity (SELENA-SLEDAI) and damage (SLICC/ACR DI) indices in each of those moments. We evaluated the treatment received, HS recurrences and the deaths by this entity.

**Results** 3656 patients from 45 Rheumatology Units across Spain were studied. 7 patients with SLE and HS were identified. 71.4% were women, with a mean age (±SD) at the diagnosis of SH of 35.1 (±17.1) years. In 5 of the 7 cases the HS occurred 115.5 (±162.9 months after the diagnosis of SLE. In the remaining 2 cases the diagnosis of both entities was simultaneous. The main triggers of HS were infections, followed by SLE activity flares. At the time of HS diagnosis, they had high SLE activity with a mean SLEDAI score of 13.1 (±11.3) and 1.4 (±2.3) SDI scores. Clinically, 100% of the patients presented fever and alterations of the liver profile, 85.8% cytopenias and 71.5% dermatological manifestations. Respiratory manifestations and hemolytic anaemia were present in 57.2% of the cases. Lymph nodes and coagulopathy in 42.9%. Hepatomegaly was detected in 28.6%, as well as neuropsychiatric, digestive and renal manifestations. Splenomegaly was detected in 14.3%. The mean haemoglobin level was 8.6 (±1.1) g/dl, platelets 85 585 (±83,390), ferritin 7410 (±6,470) n/ml and triglycerides 404.7 (±235.6) mg/dl. All patients underwent a bone marrow study. All patients were admitted. They required an average of 2.2 (±1.5) treatment lines, using 2.8 (±1.7) drugs. One patient died during the HS episode and another 2 patients had 2 and 3 recurrences respectively.

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of organ systems affected by SLE before HS diagnosis</th>
<th>Patient 1</th>
<th>Patient 2</th>
<th>Patient 3</th>
<th>Patient 4</th>
<th>Patient 5</th>
<th>Patient 6</th>
<th>Patient 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of organ systems affected by SLE at HS diagnosis</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Simultaneous diagnosis of SLE and SH</td>
<td>Simultaneous diagnosis of SLE and SH</td>
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<td>Number of organ systems affected by SLE until last assessment</td>
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<td>Follow-up lost</td>
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<td>SLEDAI/SLICC-ACR DI at HS diagnosis</td>
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<td>4/10</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>29/13</td>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>25/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLEDAI/SLICC-ACR DI 1 year after HS</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>0/10</td>
<td>0/10</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>0/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of treatment lines</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Number of treatments administered</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GC and CsA</td>
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<td>GC, CYP and IV Ig</td>
<td>Amphotericin B, mitotane</td>
<td>GC, IV Ig, CsA, MA</td>
<td>GC, Cs A, anakinra and CYP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relapses</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Follow-up time (months)</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Follow-up lost</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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