Need for Improvement in Current Treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis: Study of an Outpatient Clinic Population

Brigitte Michelsen, Andreas P. Diamantopoulos, Hege Kilander Høiberg, Dag Magnar Soldal, Arthur Kavanaugh, and Glenn Haugeberg

ABSTRACT. Objective. To explore the burden of skin, joint, and entheses manifestations in a representative psoriatic arthritis (PsA) outpatient cohort in the biologic treatment era.

Methods. This was a cross-sectional study of 141 PsA outpatients fulfilling the ClASsification for Psoriatic ARthritis (CASPAR) criteria and examined between January 2013 and May 2014. Selected disease activity measures were explored including Disease Activity index for PSoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA), Composite Psoriatic Disease Activity Index (CPDAI), Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score (PASDAS), Disease Activity Score for 28 joints (DAS28), Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI), and Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI). Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI), minimal disease activity (MDA), and remission criteria were assessed.

Results. Median (range) DAPSA was 14.5 (0.1–76.4), CPDAI 5 (1–11), PASDAS 3.1 (2.1–4.2), DAS28-erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) 3.2 (0.6–6.4), SDAI 8.6 (0.1–39.5), PASI 1.2 (0.0–19.7), and DLQI 2.0 (0–17). The MDA criteria were fulfilled by 22.9% of the patients. DAPSA \leq 4, CPDAI \leq 2, PASDAS < 2.4, DAS28-ESR < 2.4, SDAI < 3.3, and Boolean's remission criteria were fulfilled by 12.1, 9.3, 7.8, 26.2, 21.3, and 5.7% of patients, respectively. The number of satisfied patients was similar regardless of whether the group was treated with tumor necrosis factor inhibitors.

Conclusion. Our real-life data indicate that there is still a need for improvement in today's treatment of PsA. Musculoskeletal inflammatory involvement was more prominent than psoriatic skin involvement. Only a few patients fulfilled the DAPSA, PASDAS, and CPDAI remission criteria, and about a quarter fulfilled the MDA criteria. Considerably fewer patients fulfilled PsA-specific remission criteria versus non-PsA specific remission criteria. Still, patient satisfaction was good and PASI and DLQI were low. (J Rheumatol First Release February 1 2017; doi:10.3899/jrheum.160973)

Key Indexing Terms: PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

DISEASE BURDEN

REMISSION

From the Department of Rheumatology, Hospital of Southern Norway Trust, Kristiansand; Department of Rheumatology, Haugesund Rheumatism Hospital, Haugesund, Norway; Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, Immunology, University of California at San Diego, San Diego, California, USA; Department of Rheumatology, Martina Hansens Hospital, Bærum; Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway.

Funded by an unrestricted grant from Pfizer (GH). Clinical research fellowship from the Hospital of Southern Norway Trust (BM).

B. Michelsen, MD, Department of Rheumatology, Hospital of Southern Norway Trust; A.P. Diamantopoulos, PhD, Department of Rheumatology, Haugesund Rheumatism Hospital; H.K. Høiberg, MD, Department of Rheumatology, Hospital of Southern Norway Trust; D.M. Soldal, MD, Department of Rheumatology, Hospital of Southern Norway Trust; A. Kavanaugh, PhD, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, Immunology, University of California at San Diego; G. Haugeberg, PhD, Department of Rheumatology, Mospital of Southern Norway Trust, and Department of Rheumatology, Martina Hansens Hospital, and Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Address correspondence to Dr. B. Michelsen, Department of Rheumatology, Hospital of Southern Norway Trust, Service box 416, 4604 Kristiansand, Norway. E-mail: brigitte_michelsen@yahoo.no Accepted for publication December 5, 2016. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a heterogeneous and complex systemic disease that involves mainly the body surface (skin and nails) and the musculoskeletal system (e.g., joints, tendons, and entheses)¹. In patients with PsA, quality of life has been found to be poorer than in patients with psoriasis alone^{2,3}. In the literature there is a paucity of broad-based studies on the burden of skin and musculoskeletal manifestations in PsA outpatients, including recently developed composite scores for PsA⁴. During the last decade, the treatment possibilities in PsA have been vastly improved with the introduction of biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARD), which have led to far better disease outcomes^{5,6}. The treat-to-target strategy, which has been demonstrated to improve clinical outcomes in rheumatoid arthritis (RA)⁷, has also been advocated for use in PsA^{8,9}.

Over the years there has been an increased awareness of the potentially devastating nature of PsA^{3,10}. We have previ-

Personal non-commercial use only. The Journal of Rheumatology Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.

ously reported data indicating that disease perception, i.e., pain, may be worse in PsA than in RA¹¹.

In accordance with recommendations from the Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA)¹², PsA-specific composite scores reflecting the heterogenic nature of the disease have been developed. The Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis (DAPSA)¹³ is joint-focused. The Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score (PASDAS)¹⁴ includes entheses and dactylitis, as well as joints. The Composite Psoriatic Disease Activity Index (CPDAI)¹⁵ is a 5-component score including joints, entheses, dactylitis, axial skeleton, and skin.

Composite scores initially developed for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are also common in the evaluation of disease activity in PsA, i.e., the Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI)¹⁶, Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI)¹⁶, and Disease Activity Score for 28 joints (DAS28)¹⁷.

For assessment of skin disease, the Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI)¹⁸ is the best-validated and most frequently used score in PsA, although it is mainly used in trials¹⁹. The Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI)²⁰ is used for a number of dermatological conditions including PsA to measure disability related to skin disease.

Criteria for minimal disease activity (MDA) in PsA have been established²¹, and recently DAPSA remission criteria were defined, although they are debated^{22,23}. CPDAI and PASDAS remission criteria have been proposed, but not yet validated^{4,24}.

In our present study we aimed to explore the burden of skin, joint, and entheses manifestations, as well as patient-reported outcome measures (PRO) in a representative PsA outpatient cohort in the biologic treatment era.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patients. In total, there were 581 patients with PsA registered in the outpatient clinic of the Hospital of Southern Norway Trust, Norway, during the study period from January 2013 to May 2014, of whom 471 fulfilled the ClASsification for Psoriatic ARthritis criteria (CASPAR)²⁵. Of these 471 patients, 141 were included in the study in a random manner at consecutive clinic visits. All the included patients had to be 18 years or older and have a history of peripheral inflammatory involvement clinically (peripheral arthritis were excluded. The study was approved by the Norwegian Regional Committees for Medical and Health Research Ethics (Regional komité for Medisinsk og helsefaglig forskningsetikk Midt-Norge 2012/101), and written informed consent was obtained from each patient.

Assessment of disease activity. Main clinical assessments were previously reported²⁶. Patients registered demographics and PRO in the computer system, GoTreatIT Rheuma²⁷, including Modified Health Assessment Questionnaire (MHAQ)²⁸ (range 0–3), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI, range 0–10)²⁹, Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI, range 0–10)³⁰, DLQI (range 0–30), Rheumatoid Arthritis Impact of Disease (RAID, range 0–10)³¹, and Patient Acceptable Symptom State (PASS)³². C-reactive protein (CRP, mg/l) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR, mm/h) were assessed. Two specially trained nurses performed 66/68 tender/swollen joint count (TJC/SJC), dactylitis count, Maastricht Ankylosing Spondylitis Enthesitis Score³³ (MASES, range 0–13, including first and seventh costosternal joints, anterior superior iliac spine,

iliac crest, fifth lumbar spinous process, posterior superior iliac spine, and Achilles), as well as 16 other entheses (lateral and medial epicondyle, triceps, great trochanter, quadriceps, proximal and distal patellar tendons, plantar fasciae), and PASI (range 0–72). The presence of enthesitis was defined as tenderness on firm palpation. Visual analog scales for evaluator's global assessment of disease activity (EGA) and patient's global assessment of disease activity (PtGA), pain, joint pain, fatigue, morning stiffness, and back pain were recorded (range 0–100 mm, 100 mm worst assessment).

SDAI, DAS28-ESR, DAS28-CRP, and DAPSA scores were calculated. Modified versions of PASDAS (including EGA, PtGA, MHAQ, SJC66, TJC68, MASES, dactylitis count, and CRP) and CPDAI (including 66/68 joint count, MHAQ, PASI, DLQI, MASES, dactylitis count, BASDAI, and RAID) as well as CPDAI joint, entheses, and dactylitis domains (CPDAI-JED) were calculated (Supplementary Table 1, available with the online version of this article). In the PASDAS and CPDAI calculations we used MHAQ instead of HAQ³⁴/SF-36 PCS (physical component summary score of the Medical Outcomes Study Short Form-36)³⁵, RAID instead of

Table 1. Patient-reported outcome measures, inflammatory markers, and composite scores of disease activity (n = 141).

Variable	Median (range)		
Pain, 0–100 mm	31 (0–93)		
Joint pain, 0–100 mm	31 (0–94)		
PtGA, 0-100 mm	32 (0-88)		
EGA, 0–100 mm	11 (0-64)		
Fatigue, 0–100 mm	42 (0-100)		
Morning stiffness, 0–100 mm	0.5 (0-6)		
Back pain, 0–100 mm	28 (0-100)		
TJC 68, 0–68	6.0 (0-55)		
SJC 66, 0–66	0 (0–6)		
Dactylitis count, 0–20	0 (0–2)		
MHAQ, 0–3	0.38 (0.0-2.63)		
BASDAI, 0–10	3.1 (0.0–9.8)		
BASFI, 0–10	2.1 (0.0-9.9)		
CRP, mg/l	2 (0-63)		
ESR, mm/h	13 (2–64)		
DAPSA	14.5 (0.1–76.4)		
CPDAI, 0–15	5 (1-11)		
CPDAI-JED, 0–9	4 (0–6)		
PASDAS	3.1 (2.1–4.2)		
SDAI	8.6 (0.1–39.5)		
CDAI	7.9 (0-39.4)		
DAS28-CRP	2.8 (1.0-5.9)		
DAS28-ESR	3.2 (0.6–6.4)		
RAID, 0–10	3.3 (0.0–9.3)		
MASES, 0–13	2 (0–13)		
DLQI, 0-30	2.0 (0-17.0)		
PASI, 0–72	1.2 (0.0–19.7)		

PtGA: patient's global assessment; EGA: evaluator's global assessment; TJC 68: 68 tender joint count; SJC 66: 66 swollen joint count; MHAQ: modified health assessment questionnaire; BASDAI: Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index; BASFI: Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index; CRP: C-reactive protein; ESR: erythrocyte sedimentation rate; DAPSA: Disease Activity Index; CPDAI-JED: joint, entheses, and dactylitis domains of CPDAI; PASDAS: Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score; SDAI: Simplified Disease Activity Index; CDAI: Clinical Disease Activity Index; DAS28-CRP(4): 28-joint Disease Activity Score with CRP and PtGA; DAS28-ESR(4): 28-joint DAS with ESR and PtGA; RAID: Rheumatoid Arthritis Impact of Disease; MASES: Maastricht Ankylosing Spondylitis Enthesitis Score; DLQI: Dermatology Life Quality Index; PASI: Psoriasis Area Severity Index.

Personal non-commercial use only. The Journal of Rheumatology Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.

The Journal of Rheumatology 2017; 44:4; doi:10.3899/jrheum.160973

ASQoL (Ankylosing Spondylitis Quality of Life)³⁶, and MASES instead of Leeds enthesitis index³⁷, because MHAQ, RAID, and MASES but not HAQ, SF-36 PCS, ASQoL, or Leeds enthesitis index were assessed in our study. The presence of erosions on radiographs of hands and feet was assessed by a radiologist as part of general care.

The patients were classified as achieving MDA when meeting 5 of the 7 following criteria²¹: (1) TJC \leq 1, SJC \leq 1, PASI \leq 1, pain \leq 15 (0–100 scale), PtGA \leq 20 (0-100 scale), MHAQ \leq 0.5, and MASES \leq 1; (2) DAPSA \leq 4.0²²; (3) CPDAI \leq 2 and CPDAI-JED = 0²⁴; (4) PASDAS < 2.4⁴; (5) a Boolean's definition of remission modified for PsA, meeting all of the following: TJC \leq 1, SJC \leq 1, MASES \leq 1, dactylitis count \leq 1, EGA \leq 1 (0-10 scale), PtGA \leq 1 (0-10 scale), CRP \leq 1 mg/dl; (6) DAS28 < 2.4⁴; and (7) SDAI < 3.3⁴.

PRO, disease activity measures, and medication data from the last visit during the study period were compared between the included patients (n = 141) and the rest of the PsA cohort fulfilling the inclusion criteria (n = 330). The data included demographics, 28 TJC and SJC, MHAQ, ESR, CRP, EGA, PtGA, joint pain, fatigue, morning stiffness, body mass index (BMI), CDAI, DAS28, and current use of conventional synthetic DMARD (csDMARD), tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi), and steroids.

Statistical analyses. Statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics version 21.0.0.2 as well as STATA statistical software version 14 (Fisher's exact test). Descriptive statistics were used to calculate patients' demographic variables. The median and range were calculated for nonparametric data and the mean and SD for parametric data. Proportions were analyzed using the chi-square test or Fisher's exact test as appropriate. Quantitative results were compared using the Mann-Whitney U test (nonparametric distribution of the data). Correlation analyses were performed by Spearman's rank correlation test (nonparametric distribution of the data).

RESULTS

Clinical findings. The 141 included patients had a mean (SD) age of 52.4 (10.2) years, disease duration 9.5 (6.6) years, education duration 13.0 (3.3) years, BMI 28.3 (4.3) kg/m². In addition, 50.4% were women, 17.0% current smokers, 51.8% previous smokers, 53.2% currently had paid work, and 26.6% had erosive disease.

At inclusion, 15 patients (10.6%) were using glucocorticoid, 53 (37.6%) csDMARD monotherapy, 18 (12.8%) bDMARD monotherapy, and 28 (19.9%) both csDMARD and bDMARD treatment.

A comparison of the characteristics of the 141 included and 330 excluded patients with PsA (for whom less extensive data were available) at their last visit at the outpatient clinic is displayed in Supplementary Table 2, available with the online version of this article. No statistically significant differences were found between the included and excluded patients, apart from age, 28 TJC, DAS28, CDAI, and current use of steroids. *Composite scores*. PRO, inflammatory markers, and composite scores of disease activity are listed in Table 1. CPDAI categories are displayed in Table 2. Active arthritis was found in 128 patients (90.8%), active skin disease in 127 (90.0%; 1 missing), enthesitis in 95 (67.4%), dactylitis in 1 (0.7%), and active spondylitis in 11 (7.8%). On the 66/68 joint count, 126 patients (89.4%) had \geq 1 TJ and 52 (36.9%) \geq 1 SJ. On MASES count, 95 patients (67.4%) presented \geq 1 painful entheseal site. Median (range) DAPSA was 14.5 (0.1–76.4), CPDAI 5.0 (1.0–11.0), CPDAI-JED 4 (0–6), and PASDAS 3.1 (2.1-4.2).

The different PsA-specific composite scores were moderately to highly correlated (p < 0.001): CPDAI and DAPSA ($\rho = 0.77$), CPDAI and PASDAS ($\rho = 0.63$), and DAPSA and PASDAS ($\rho = 0.54$). Respectively, DAPSA, CPDAI, and PASDAS were highly to moderately correlated to DAS28-CRP ($\rho = 0.85, 0.65, 0.46$), SDAI ($\rho = 0.89, 0.70, 0.46$), and MHAQ ($\rho = 0.61, 0.77, 0.56$), all with p < 0.001.

PASI < 3, the lower limit for reliability of the score, was found in 105 (74.3%) patients.

DLQI \leq 1, indicating no effect at all on patient's life, was reported by 59 patients (41.8%), and DLQI \leq 5, indicating no or small effect on a patient's life, by 109 patients (77.3%). DLQI and PASI were moderately correlated ($\rho = 0.55$, p < 0.001).

MHAQ ≤ 0.5 was found in 94 (66.7%), MHAQ ≤ 1 in 134 (95%), and RAID ≤ 2 in 39 patients (27.9%). RAID was strongly correlated to MHAQ ($\rho = 0.71$) and moderately to DLQI ($\rho = 0.32$, p < 0.001).

PASS was reported as acceptable by 76.3% of the patients. Patient-reported change of condition compared to the previous visit at the outpatient clinic was reported as worse, the same, better, or much better by 6.3%, 73.4%, 16.1%, and 1.4% of the patients, respectively. No difference in the number of patients considering the status actually acceptable was found when comparing patients currently treated with or without bDMARD (73.9% vs 77.4%, p = 0.648) and csDMARD (79.7% vs 71.7%, p = 0.267).

Patients finding the status acceptable showed significantly lower DAPSA (-12.7), CPDAI (-2.0), PASDAS (-0.3), Boolean's (-7.6), DAS28-ESR (-0.9), DAS28-CRP (-0.9), and SDAI (-6.9) compared to patients who did not report the status as acceptable ($p \le 0.002$).

MDA and remission criteria. The percentages of patients fulfilling the remission criteria and the MDA criteria are

Table 2. Modified Composite Psoriatic Disease Activity Index (CPDAI) categories. All data are n (%).

CPDAI Categories	Modified CPDAI; Range 0–15			
	Not Involved, Score = 0	Mild, Score = 1	Moderate, Score = 2	Severe, Score = 3
Peripheral arthritis	13 (9.2)	30 (21.3)	52 (36.9)	46 (32.6)
Skin disease (1 missing)	13 (9.2)	108 (76.6)	15 (10.6)	4 (2.8)
Enthesitis	46 (32.6)	20 (14.2)	49 (34.8)	26 (18.4)
Dactylitis	140 (99.3)	1 (0.7)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Axial disease	130 (92.2)	7 (5.0)	2 (1.4)	2 (1.4)

Personal non-commercial use only. The Journal of Rheumatology Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.

Michelsen, et al: Disease burden in PsA

displayed in Table 3. According to the composite scores specifically developed for PsA, about 1 in 10 patients were in remission, while a considerably higher proportion of the patients were in remission according to the composite scores initially developed for RA. The percentages of patients fulfilling the remission criteria and the MDA criteria according to different treatment regimens are displayed in Figure 1. The percentages of patients in remission were similar in the bDMARD group compared with the cs/bDMARD group. A trend was seen toward higher percentages of patients in remission among patients treated with bDMARD compared with csDMARD and without DMARD.

DISCUSSION

Remission is the main goal in modern treatment of inflammatory joint disorders including PsA^{9,38}. Still, only a few of the PsA patients fulfilled the DAPSA, CPDAI, CPDAI-JED, PASDAS, and Boolean's remission criteria, and only about one-quarter met MDA criteria.

CPDAI is the only PsA-specific composite score covering all the main disease entities, giving a detailed overview of disease activity. Although DAPSA is primarily joint-focused and PASDAS covers joints, dactylitis, and entheses but not skin and axial disease, the number of patients in remission was similar according to CPDAI, CPDAI-JED, DAPSA, and PASDAS.

In contrast, DAS28 and SDAI remission criteria were fulfilled by considerably more patients. This could partly be attributed to DAS28 and SDAI including 28 and not a 66/68 joint count, in contrast to CPDAI, DAPSA, and PASDAS, which all include the 66/68 joint count.

Our findings are supported by a study exploring the discriminative capacity of composite scores in PsA also

Table 3. Patients fulfilling minimal disease activity and remission criteria according to type of treatment (n = 141). Chi-squared or Fisher's exact test were used, as appropriate. Except for p values, data are n (% of DMARD category).

	No DMARD, n = 42	csDMARD, n = 53	bDMARD, n = 18	csDMARD and bDMARD, n = 28	р
MDA, n = 32, 1 missing (22.9)	5/41 (12.2)	14 (26.4)	4 (22.2)	9 (32.1)	0.20
DAS28-ESR < 2.4, n = 37 (26.2)	9 (21.4)	14 (26.4)	6 (33.3)	8 (28.6)	0.79
SDAI < 3.3, n = 30 (21.3)	6 (14.3)	12 (22.6)	5 (27.8)	7 (25.0)	0.58
$DAPSA \le 4.0, n = 17 (12.1)$	4 (9.5)	7 (13.2)	3 (16.7)	3 (10.7)	0.85
CPDAI ≤ 2 , n = 13, 1 missing (9.3)	3/41 (7.3)	4 (7.5)	3 (16.7)	3 (10.7)	0.63
CPDAI-JED = 0, n = 11 (7.8)	3 (7.1)	3 (5.7)	4 (22.2)	1 (3.6)	0.15
PASDAS < 2.4, n = 11 (7.8)	2 (4.8)	6 (11.3)	1 (5.6)	2 (7.1)	0.71
Boolean's, $n = 8$ (5.7)	2 (4.8)	3 (5.7)	3 (16.7)	0 (0)	0.11

DMARD: disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; csDMARD: conventional synthetic DMARD; bDMARD: biologic DMARD; MDA: minimal disease activity; DAS28-ESR: Disease Activity Score including 28-joint count with erythrocyte sedimentation rate; SDAI: Simplified Disease Activity Index; DAPSA: Disease Activity Index for Psoriatic Arthritis; CPDAI: Composite Psoriatic Disease Activity Index; CPDAI-JED: joint, entheses, and dactylitis domains of CPDAI; PASDAS: Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score; Boolean's: Boolean's remission criteria modified for psoriatic arthritis.

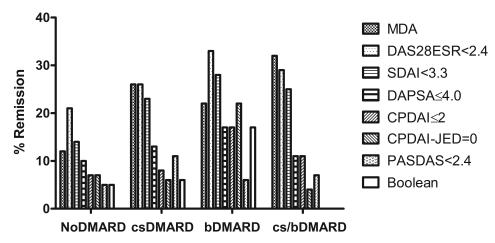


Figure 1. Percentage of patients fulfilling the remission criteria and the minimal disease activity (MDA) criteria according to different treatment regimens. DAS28-ESR: 28-joint Disease Activity Score with erythrocyte sedimentation rate; SDAI: Simplified Disease Activity Index; DAPSA: Disease Activity index for Psoriatic Arthritis; CPDAI: Composite Psoriatic Disease Activity Index; CPDAI-JED: CPDAI joint, entheses, and dactylitis domains; PASDAS: Psoriatic Arthritis Disease Activity Score; DMARD: disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs; csDMARD: conventional synthetic DMARD; bDMARD: biologic DMARD.

Personal non-commercial use only. The Journal of Rheumatology Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.

The Journal of Rheumatology 2017; 44:4; doi:10.3899/jrheum.160973

reporting DAPSA, CPDAI, and PASDAS, to show more stringent definitions of remission compared to DAS28 and SDAI in PsA⁴. Interestingly, the MDA criteria were fulfilled by a percentage of patients similar to those who fulfilled the DAS28 and SDAI remission criteria. It is important to be aware that while the MDA criterion is validated for PsA²¹, the recent validation of the DAPSA remission criterion (\leq 4) for PsA is being debated^{22,23}, while the cutoff values for PASDAS (<2.4), CPDAI (\leq 2), CPDAI-JED (0), DAS28 (< 2.4), and SDAI (< 3.3) remission are proposed but not validated for PsA^{4,24}. There was a trend toward higher percentages of patients in remission among the bDMARD-treated patients compared with the patients without DMARD treatment or with csDMARD monotherapy (Figure 1).

In contrast to the low number of patients who fulfilled the remission criteria, the 66 SJC was low. SJC is easy to perform and valuable for impartial evaluation of arthritis. Patient global assessment and TJC are included in all the mentioned composite scores and are often considerably higher than evaluator's global assessment and SJC, respectively³⁹. PRO may be influenced by psychosocial factors and may pose error sources in the evaluation of disease activity through composite scores⁴⁰. Nevertheless, PRO are of unquestionable importance in the evaluation of the total disease burden in inflammatory arthritides⁴¹.

According to DLQI, psoriatic skin disease had little or no effect on quality of life for a majority of patients. This is in accordance with the low scoring of PASI in this cohort, with a majority of the patients having PASI lower than the reliability limit set for this score. Health-related quality of life (HRQOL) according to MHAQ and RAID was also good in our population.

Only about half of the patients had paid work at the time of the study. This is consistent with previous studies in PsA^{42} .

A limitation of our study is the cross-sectional design, allowing evaluation of disease burden in only 1 visit. On the other hand, the strength of our study is the evaluation of the total disease burden in a real-life cohort of patients with PsA from the outpatient clinic, including recently developed PsA-specific composite scores.

In a recent study we showed that the proportion of patients in remission in our RA outpatient clinic cohort was as high as 55.5% for DAS28-ESR remission, 31.7% for SDAI remission, and 17.7% for Boolean remission²⁷. These figures are considerably higher than the remission figures seen in PsA in this study. This may be explained by higher perceptions of pain and patient global assessment in PsA compared to RA, as previously reported¹¹. However, it is questionable whether the use of DAS28 and SDAI remission criteria is justified in PsA because of the clinical complexity and heterogeneity seen in this disease, as well as the exclusion of the feet in the 28-joint count included in these composite scores.

The treatment options in PsA have been revolutionized in the last decade with the introduction of TNFi. Yet, a substantial

proportion of patients do not receive satisfactory results from TNFi. In recent years, several other new and promising treatment options have been developed⁴³. In our study, about a third of the patients were currently under TNFi treatment.

PASS was reported as acceptable by a majority of the patients, and a vast majority reported change in condition since the last visit as the same, better, or much better. A previous study has reported cutpoints for PASS to correspond to an HRQOL far from perfect health⁴⁴. The number of satisfied patients was similar in the groups receiving and not receiving TNFi treatment.

PsA is a heterogeneous disease and evaluation of disease activity remains challenging. Whether the available composite scores sufficiently reflect disease activity in PsA remains to be explored in future studies. Further, there is a need for validated remission criteria in PsA.

Our real-life data indicate a continuing need for improvement in today's treatment of PsA. Musculoskeletal inflammatory involvement was more prominent than psoriatic skin involvement. Only a few patients fulfilled the DAPSA, PASDAS, and CPDAI remission criteria and about a quarter the MDA criteria. Considerably fewer patients fulfilled PsA-specific versus non–PsA-specific remission criteria. Still, patient satisfaction was good and PASI and DLQI were low.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors thank the patients for participating in our study and the local rheumatology staff for data collection.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT

Supplementary material accompanies the online version of this article.

REFERENCES

- Gladman DD, Antoni C, Mease P, Clegg DO, Nash P. Psoriatic arthritis: epidemiology, clinical features, course, and outcome. Ann Rheum Dis 2005;64 Suppl 2:ii14-7.
- Lundberg L, Johannesson M, Silverdahl M, Hermansson C, Lindberg M. Health-related quality of life in patients with psoriasis and atopic dermatitis measured with SF-36, DLQI and a subjective measure of disease activity. Acta Derm Venereol 2000;80:430-4.
- Boehncke WH, Menter A. Burden of disease: psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Am J Clin Dermatol 2013;14:377-88.
- 4. Salaffi F, Ciapetti A, Carotti M, Gasparini S, Gutierrez M. Disease activity in psoriatic arthritis: comparison of the discriminative capacity and construct validity of six composite indices in a real world. Biomed Res Int 2014;2014:528105.
- Perrotta FM, Marchesoni A, Lubrano E. Minimal disease activity and remission in psoriatic arthritis patients treated with anti-TNF-α drugs. J Rheumatol 2016;43:350-5.
- Gossec L, Smolen JS, Ramiro S, de Wit M, Cutolo M, Dougados M, et al. European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) recommendations for the management of psoriatic arthritis with pharmacological therapies: 2015 update. Ann Rheum Dis 2016;75:499-510.
- Schoels M, Knevel R, Aletaha D, Bijlsma JW, Breedveld FC, Boumpas DT, et al. Evidence for treating rheumatoid arthritis to target: results of a systematic literature search. Ann Rheum Dis 2010;69:638-43.

Personal non-commercial use only. The Journal of Rheumatology Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.

- Schoels MM, Braun J, Dougados M, Emery P, Fitzgerald O, Kavanaugh A, et al. Treating axial and peripheral spondyloarthritis, including psoriatic arthritis, to target: results of a systematic literature search to support an international treat-to-target recommendation in spondyloarthritis. Ann Rheum Dis 2014; 73:238-42.
- Smolen JS, Braun J, Dougados M, Emery P, Fitzgerald O, Helliwell P, et al. Treating spondyloarthritis, including ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis, to target: recommendations of an international task force. Ann Rheum Dis 2014;73:6-16.
- Sokoll KB, Helliwell PS. Comparison of disability and quality of life in rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis. J Rheumatol 2001;28:1842-6.
- Michelsen B, Fiane R, Diamantopoulos AP, Soldal DM, Hansen IJ, Sokka T, et al. A comparison of disease burden in rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and axial spondyloarthritis. PLoS One 2015;10:e0123582.
- Coates LC, FitzGerald O, Mease PJ, Gladman DD, Strand V, Goel N, et al. Development of a disease activity and responder index for psoriatic arthritis—report of the Psoriatic Arthritis Module at OMERACT 11. J Rheumatol 2014;41:782-91.
- Schoels M, Aletaha D, Funovits J, Kavanaugh A, Baker D, Smolen JS. Application of the DAREA/DAPSA score for assessment of disease activity in psoriatic arthritis. Ann Rheum Dis 2010; 69:1441-7.
- Helliwell PS, FitzGerald O, Fransen J, Gladman DD, Kreuger GG, Callis-Duffin K, et al. The development of candidate composite disease activity and responder indices for psoriatic arthritis (GRACE project). Ann Rheum Dis 2013;72:986-91.
- Mumtaz A, Gallagher P, Kirby B, Waxman R, Coates LC, Veale JD, et al. Development of a preliminary composite disease activity index in psoriatic arthritis. Ann Rheum Dis 2011;70:272-7.
- Aletaha D, Smolen J. The Simplified Disease Activity Index (SDAI) and the Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI): a review of their usefulness and validity in rheumatoid arthritis. Clin Exp Rheumatol 2005;23:S100-8.
- 17. Wells G, Becker JC, Teng J, Dougados M, Schiff M, Smolen J, et al. Validation of the 28-joint Disease Activity Score (DAS28) and European League Against Rheumatism response criteria based on C-reactive protein against disease progression in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, and comparison with the DAS28 based on erythrocyte sedimentation rate. Ann Rheum Dis 2009;68:954-60.
- 18. Fredriksson T, Pettersson U. Severe psoriasis—oral therapy with a new retinoid. Dermatologica 1978;157:238-44.
- 19. Wong PC, Leung YY, Li EK, Tam LS. Measuring disease activity in psoriatic arthritis. Int J Rheumatol 2012;2012:839425.
- Finlay AY, Khan GK. Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI)—a simple practical measure for routine clinical use. Clin Exp Dermatol 1994;19:210-6.
- Coates LC, Helliwell PS. Validation of minimal disease activity criteria for psoriatic arthritis using interventional trial data. Arthritis Care Res 2010;62:965-9.
- 22. Schoels MM, Aletaha D, Alasti F, Smolen JS. Disease activity in psoriatic arthritis (PsA): defining remission and treatment success using the DAPSA score. Ann Rheum Dis 2016;75:811-8.
- Helliwell PS, Coates LC. The definition of remission in psoriatic arthritis: can this be accurate without assessment of multiple domains? Ann Rheum Dis 2015;74:e66.
- 24. Husic R, Gretler J, Felber A, Graninger WB, Duftner C, Hermann J, et al. Disparity between ultrasound and clinical findings in psoriatic arthritis. Ann Rheum Dis 2014;73:1529-36.
- 25. Taylor W, Gladman D, Helliwell P, Marchesoni A, Mease P, Mielants H, et al. Classification criteria for psoriatic arthritis: development of new criteria from a large international study. Arthritis Rheum 2006;54:2665-73.
- 26. Michelsen B, Diamantopoulos AP, Hammer HB, Soldal DM, Kavanaugh A, Haugeberg G. Ultrasonographic evaluation in

psoriatic arthritis is of major importance in evaluating disease activity. Ann Rheum Dis 2016;75:2108-13.

- 27. Haugeberg G, Hansen IJ, Soldal DM, Sokka T. Ten years of change in clinical disease status and treatment in rheumatoid arthritis: results based on standardized monitoring of patients in an ordinary outpatient clinic in southern Norway. Arthritis Res Ther 2015;17:219.
- Pincus T, Summey JA, Soraci SA Jr., Wallston KA, Hummon NP. Assessment of patient satisfaction in activities of daily living using a modified Stanford Health Assessment Questionnaire. Arthritis Rheum 1983;26:1346-53.
- Garrett S, Jenkinson T, Kennedy LG, Whitelock H, Gaisford P, Calin A. A new approach to defining disease status in ankylosing spondylitis: the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index. J Rheumatol 1994;21:2286-91.
- 30. Calin A, Garrett S, Whitelock H, Kennedy LG, O'Hea J, Mallorie P, et al. A new approach to defining functional ability in ankylosing spondylitis: the development of the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index. J Rheumatol 1994;21:2281-5.
- 31. Gossec L, Paternotte S, Aanerud GJ, Balanescu A, Boumpas DT, Carmona L, et al. Finalisation and validation of the rheumatoid arthritis impact of disease score, a patient-derived composite measure of impact of rheumatoid arthritis: a EULAR initiative. Ann Rheum Dis 2011;70:935-42.
- 32. Kvien TK, Heiberg T, Hagen KB. Minimal clinically important improvement/difference (MCII/MCID) and patient acceptable symptom state (PASS): what do these concepts mean? Ann Rheum Dis 2007;66 Suppl 3:iii40-1.
- 33. Heuft-Dorenbosch L, Spoorenberg A, van Tubergen A, Landewe R, van ver Tempel H, Mielants H, et al. Assessment of enthesitis in ankylosing spondylitis. Ann Rheum Dis 2003;62:127-32.
- 34. Fries JF, Spitz P, Kraines RG, Holman HR. Measurement of patient outcome in arthritis. Arthritis Rheum 1980;23:137-45.
- Ware JE Jr., Sherbourne CD. The MOS 36-item short-form health survey (SF-36). I. Conceptual framework and item selection. Med Care 1992;30:473-83.
- Doward LC, Spoorenberg A, Cook SA, Whalley D, Helliwell PS, Kay LJ, et al. Development of the ASQoL: a quality of life instrument specific to ankylosing spondylitis. Ann Rheum Dis 2003;62:20-6.
- Healy PJ, Helliwell PS. Measuring clinical enthesitis in psoriatic arthritis: assessment of existing measures and development of an instrument specific to psoriatic arthritis. Arthritis Rheum 2008;59:686-91.
- Acosta Felquer ML, Ferreyra Garrott L, Marin J, Catay E, Scolnik M, Scaglioni V, et al. Remission criteria and activity indices in psoriatic arthritis. Clin Rheumatol 2014;33:1323-30.
- 39. Eder L, Thavaneswaran A, Chandran V, Cook R, Gladman DD. Factors explaining the discrepancy between physician and patient global assessment of joint and skin disease activity in psoriatic arthritis patients. Arthritis Care Res 2015;67:264-72.
- 40. Bjork M, Trupin L, Thyberg I, Katz P, Yelin E. Differences in activity limitation, pain intensity, and global health in patients with rheumatoid arthritis in Sweden and the USA: a 5-year follow-up. Scand J Rheumatol 2011;40:428-32.
- Lubrano E, Cantini F, Costanzo A, Girolomoni G, Prignano F, Olivieri I, et al. Measuring psoriatic disease in clinical practice. An expert opinion position paper. Autoimmun Rev 2015;14:864-74.
- 42. Tillett W, de-Vries C, McHugh NJ. Work disability in psoriatic arthritis: a systematic review. Rheumatology 2012;51:275-83.
- 43. Ritchlin CT, Krueger JG. New therapies for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Curr Opin Rheumatol 2016;28:204-10.
- 44. Kvamme MK, Kristiansen IS, Lie E, Kvien TK. Identification of cutpoints for acceptable health status and important improvement in patient-reported outcomes, in rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis. J Rheumatol 2010;37:26-31.

Personal non-commercial use only. The Journal of Rheumatology Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.