Prevalence of Takayasu Arteritis: A Population-based Study

To the Editor:

Takayasu arteritis (TA) is a rare inflammatory condition of the large blood vessels that affects the aorta and its branches. Young females of Asian descent are typically the most affected by this disease; however, in the United States, most patients with TA are White and 1 Asian. The mean age at diagnosis was 20.5 years (SD 4.5 yrs).

TA meeting ACR criteria were included in the study. Between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2018, forty patients were identified on initial screen by diagnosis code and underwent comprehensive procedures. The remaining 4 patients did not require vascular or endovascular interventions, which included right subclavian bypass, bilateral carotid endartectomies, abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, and left iliac stenting. No restenosis or occlusion of the intervened sites was observed at last follow-up. The remaining 4 patients did not require vascular or endovascular procedures.

The strengths of our study include the extended REP, which is a unique record linkage system in Southern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin, allowing full access to the medical records of the studied patients. The limitation of our study, inherent to a retrospective study design, is that the information is entirely dependent on what is reported in the medical records. Understanding the epidemiology of TA is essential for the advancement of research in this challenging disease.

Catalina Sanchez-Alvarez1,2, MD
Cynthia S. Crowson1,2, MD
Matthew J. Kostert1, MD
Kenneth J. Warrington1, MD
1Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota;
2Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida;
3Department of Health Sciences Research, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA.

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Address correspondence to Dr. C. Sanchez-Alvarez, UF Academic Research Building, PO Box 100221, Gainesville, FL 32610, USA. Email: catalina.sanchez@ufl.edu.

REFERENCES