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The risk of thrombosis in patients with antiphospholipid syndrome: Influence of antiphospholipid antibody type and levels

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Introduction: Clinical interest in antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) is due to their relation with arterial and venous thrombosis in the antiphospholipid syndrome (APS).

Patients and methods: We analyzed 488 APS patients: 346 patients with primary (PAPS) and 142 with secondary APS (sAPS/SLE); 81.5% women and 18.5% men; average age 45.03 ± 13.61 . aPL analysis included detection of aCL (IgG/IgM), β 2GPI (IgG/IgM), and LA. The objective was to observe the prevalence and localization of thrombosis, and correlate it to aPL type and level in patients diagnosed with PAPS or sAPS.

Results: Thrombosis was diagnosed in 46.5% patients, with higher prevalence in PAPS compared to sAPS patients (51.2% and 38.3%, respectively, $p=0.045$). There was similar prevalence of arterial thrombosis in both groups (34.6% and 34%, respectively, $p=0.932$) although venous thrombosis was more frequent in PAPS (25.9% and 8.5%, respectively, $p=0.001$). Thrombosis was observed in 55.8% patients who had more than one type of antibodies (category I), in 41.9% patients with category IIa, in 46.3% patients with category IIb, and in 44.2% patients with category IIc ($p=0.10$). There was no statistically significant difference in the prevalence of arterial/venous thrombosis in patients with low/normal, intermediate, and high levels of aCL and anti- β 2GPI (IgG, IgM). Older age in APS patients is a risk factor for thrombosis (median age 49.8 and 39.8, respectively, $p=0.001$).

Conclusion: The prevalence of venous thrombosis was higher in the PAPS group. Antibody category and levels of various types of antibodies did not correlate with the prevalence of thrombosis in the Serbian National Cohort Study.

Biography

Ljudmila Stojanovich received her PhD in Medicine, with the thesis "Neuropsychiatric manifestations in patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus" in 1999. She is the Scientific Director in the Bezhanijska Kosa, University Medical Center of Belgrade University, where she is currently a Research Professor. Her research focuses on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Antiphospholipid Syndrome, and Vaccination in patients with Autoimmune Rheumatic diseases. She is an author of three monographs and of about 250 articles on various aspects of Autoimmune Rheumatic disorders, published in international and domestic journals and in conference proceedings. She is in Editorial Boards (Editorial Boards LUPUS (London), Reviewer in the "Current Contents" or "Science Citation Index". She is a member of number International Project, like of "the European Forum on Antiphospholipid Antibodies", "Multicentre Studies Antiphospholipid Antibodies, and Infections and Autoimmune Diseases". She was an invited speaker for many lectures in congresses and symposia; organizer and chairman of many workshops, seminars and symposia; member of the Steering Committee of the "(EULAR) recommendations for vaccination in patients with auto-immune inflammatory rheumatic diseases (AIIRD)".

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