

Demographic Similarity and variability between patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries

Fatima AlKhars¹, Sulaiman M Al-Mayouf^{1,2}

Pediatric Rheumatology, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research¹
College of Medicine, Alfaisal University²
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Abstract

Objective

To highlight the similarities and variability between patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Methods

We comprehensively conducted electronic searches via PubMed and Google Scholar for relevant studies using the appropriate MeSH terms related to demographic and clinical features of JIA. The search was limited to articles from January 1988 till October 2021. Authors independently reviewed the searched literature to identify eligible studies. Citations from selected articles were also checked for additional eligible studies.

Results

Data was retrieved from seven eligible studies. A total of 757 JIA patients with a mean age of 10.7 ± 4.6 years were identified from four different countries (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait and Oman); there were no published reports from Bahrain or Qatar. Two studies identified the estimated prevalence rate of nearly 20 per 100,000. There was a female predominance (62.1%). The mean age at the onset of JIA manifestations was 6.3 ± 3.9 years. Thirty-two (4.2%) patients had a positive family history of familial JIA. Interestingly, Omani cohort had the highest frequency (9.8%) of affected siblings with JIA. The most frequent JIA subtypes were oligoarticular JIA, followed by polyarticular and systemic JIA. Of note, oligoarticular JIA was more frequent in UAE and Omani cohorts, while systemic JIA was more prevalent in Saudi and Kuwaiti cohorts. Uveitis occurred in 5.0% (n= 38) of patients during their disease course, mostly in oligoarticular category. Detection of positive ANA was in 37.3% while RF and anti-CCP were 21% and 10.5% respectively.

Conclusion

Our findings estimated the number of children affected by JIA; and showed demographic similarities between patients. However, more studies are needed to address the incidence and prevalence and the true burden of this disease in the GCC countries.