

Comparison of clinical features between patients with anti-synthetase syndrome and dermatomyositis: Results from the MYONET registry

Ryan Malcolm Hum^{1,2}, James B Lilleker^{1,3}, Janine A Lamb⁴, Alexander GS Oldroyd^{1,2}, Guochun Wang⁵, Lucy R Wedderburn⁶, Louise P Diederichsen⁷, Jens Schmidt⁸, Maria Giovanna Danieli⁹, Paula Oakley¹⁰, Zoltan Griger¹¹, Thuy Nguyen Thi Phuong¹², Chanakya Kodishala^{13,14}, Monica Vazquez-Del Mercado¹⁵, Helena Andersson¹⁶, Boel De Paepe¹⁷, Jan L. De Bleecker¹⁷, Britta Maurer¹⁸, Liza McCann¹⁹, Nicolo Pipitone²⁰, Neil McHugh^{21,22}, Robert Paul New²³, William E Ollier²⁴, Niels Steen Krogh²⁵, Jiri Vencovsky²⁶, Ingrid E Lundberg^{27,28}, MYONET registry²⁹, Hector Chinoy^{1,30}

1 The University of Manchester Faculty of Biology Medicine and Health, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, Division of Musculoskeletal & Dermatological Sciences, Manchester, Manchester, UK

2 The University of Manchester, National Institute for Health Research Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, Manchester, Manchester, UK

3 Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Centre for Clinical Neuroscience, Salford Royal Hospital, Salford, Manchester, UK

4 The University of Manchester Faculty of Biology Medicine and Health, Epidemiology and Public Health Group, Division of Population Health, Health Services Research and Primary Care, Manchester, Manchester, UK

5 China-Japan Friendship Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Beijing, Beijing, CN

6 Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, London, London, UK

7 Copenhagen University Hospital, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Kobenhavn, DK

8 University Medical Center Göttingen, Department of Neurology, Göttingen, Niedersachsen, DE

9 Università Politecnica delle Marche, Clinica Medica, Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche e Molecolari, Ancona, IT

10 Myositis UK, Myositis UK, Southampton, UK

11 University of Debrecen, Department of Immunology, Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar, HU

12 Hanoi Medical University, Internal Medicine Department, Hanoi, Dong Da, VN

13 St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Bangalore, Karnataka, IN

14 Mayo Clinic, Department of Rheumatology, Rochester, MN, USA

15 Universidad de Guadalajara, Division de Medicina Interna, Servicio de Reumatología, Hospital Civil Dr. Juan I. Menchaca, Guadalajara, Jalisco, MX

16 Oslo University Hospital, Department of Rheumatology, Oslo, NO

17 Universitair Ziekenhuis Gent, Department of Neurology, Ghent, BE

18 Inselspital University Hospital Bern, Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Bern, Bern, CH

19 Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Liverpool, Merseyside, UK

20 Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova di Reggio Emilia, Department of Rheumatology, Reggio Emilia, Emilia-Romagna, IT

21 Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Department of Rheumatology, Bath, UK

22 University of Bath, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Bath, UK

23 University of Liverpool, MRC/ARUK Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease, Liverpool, UK

24 Manchester Metropolitan University, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Manchester, Manchester, UK

25 Zitellab Aps, Zitellab Aps, Copenhagen, DK

26 Charles University, Institute of Rheumatology and Department of Rheumatology, Praha, Praha, CZ

27 Karolinska Institutet, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Stockholm, SE

28 Karolinska University Hospital, Department of Gastroenterology, Dermatology, and Rheumatology, Stockholm, SE

29 Details regarding the MYONET registry collaborators can be found in the acknowledgements

30 Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, Department of Rheumatology, Salford Royal Hospital, Salford, Manchester, UK

Corresponding author

Prof Hector Chinoy
Centre for Musculoskeletal Research,
Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences,
Faculty of Biology, Medicine, and Health
The University of Manchester
Manchester, UK

Email: hector.chinoy@manchester.ac.uk

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6492-1288>

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Abstract

Objectives

To compare clinical characteristics, including the frequency of cutaneous, extramuscular manifestations, and malignancy, between adults with anti-synthetase syndrome (ASyS) and dermatomyositis (DM).

Methods

Using data regarding adults from the MYONET registry, a cohort of DM patients with anti-Mi2/-TIF1γ/-NXP2/-SAE/-MDA5 autoantibodies, and a cohort of ASyS patients with anti-tRNA synthetase autoantibodies (anti-Jo1/-PL7/-PL12/-OJ/-EJ/-Zo/-KS) were identified. Patients with DM *sine* dermatitis or with discordant dual autoantibody specificities were excluded. Sub-cohorts of patients with ASyS with or without skin involvement were defined based on presence of DM-type rashes (heliotrope rash, Gottron’s papules/sign, violaceous rash, shawl sign, V sign, erythroderma, and/or periorbital rash).

Results

In total 1,054 patients were included (DM, n=405; ASyS, n=649). In ASyS cohort, 31% (n=203) had DM-type skin involvement (ASyS-DMskin). A higher frequency of extramuscular manifestations, including Mechanic’s hands, Raynaud’s phenomenon, arthritis, interstitial lung disease, and cardiac involvement differentiated ASyS-DMskin from DM (all p<0.001), whereas higher frequency of any of four DM-type rashes: heliotrope rash (n=248, 61% vs n=90, 44%), violaceous rash (n=166, 41% vs n=57, 9%), V sign (n=124, 31% vs n=28, 4%), and shawl sign (n=133, 33% vs n=18, 3%) differentiated DM from ASyS-DMskin (all p<0.005). Cancer-associated myositis (CAM) was more frequent in DM (n=67, 17%) compared to ASyS (n=21, 3%) and ASyS-DMskin (n=7, 3%) cohorts (both p<0.001).

Conclusion

DM-type rashes are frequent in patients with ASyS; however, distinct clinical manifestations differentiate these patients from classical DM. Skin involvement in ASyS does not necessitate increased malignancy surveillance. These findings will inform future ASyS classification criteria and patient management.

Keywords

Antisynthetase syndrome, dermatomyositis, cutaneous, rashes, Raynaud’s phenomenon, skin, malignancy, epidemiology, MYONET, extramuscular.

Key Messages

- Approximately one third of patients with ASyS have DM-type cutaneous involvement
- Certain clinical manifestations differentiate patients with ASyS and DM-type cutaneous involvement from DM
- ASyS with DM-type cutaneous involvement is not associated with increased risk of malignancy

Introduction

Antisynthetase syndrome (ASyS) is a clinical subtype of idiopathic inflammatory myopathy (IIM) characterised by the presence of disease-specific autoantibodies against aminoacyl-transfer RNA synthetase (ARS) including anti-Jo1, -PL12, -PL7, -EJ, -OJ, -KS, -Zo, and -Ha. Clinical features of ASyS include mechanic's hands, Raynaud's phenomenon, interstitial lung disease (ILD), myositis, arthritis, and/or fever.(1-3) Dermatomyositis (DM) is another IIM subtype distinguished by characteristic cutaneous manifestations (including Gottron's papules/sign, erythroderma, heliotrope, violaceous, periorbital, V sign, and shawl sign rashes) with or without myositis (amyopathic) and/or ILD.(1) DM-specific autoantibodies include anti-Mi2, -TIF1γ, -SAE, -MDA5, and -NXP2.(3) Cutaneous DM-type manifestations can also be observed in ASyS patients, therefore the current classification criteria for DM and ASyS overlap significantly, making classification of patients with anti-ARS and associated cutaneous manifestations especially challenging.(4) An international workshop from The European Neuromuscular Centre (ENMC) further highlighted this challenge, noting that ASyS is a unique and separate subgroup from DM even in the presence of DM-type cutaneous manifestations, and recommending that such patients be classified as having "ASyS with DM-like rash" and not DM.(5)

Up to 28% of patients with ASyS (defined with anti-ARS) have DM-type cutaneous manifestations.(6) However, it is not clear whether ASyS patients with DM-type cutaneous manifestations resemble patients with DM, and whether they should be regarded similarly in a clinical trial setting. Furthermore, it is not known if the presence of DM-type cutaneous manifestations confers an increased risk of DM-specific extramuscular manifestations, such as malignancy. Therefore, detailed phenotyping of a cohort of patients with ASyS with DM-type cutaneous manifestations might facilitate prediction of individual patient clinical course, the need for malignancy screening, and inform future ASyS classification criteria.

We aimed to investigate the clinical manifestations in patients with ASyS and cutaneous manifestations using data from an international multicentre registry ("MYONET Registry", previously the "Euromyositis Registry").(7)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Methods

The MYONET Registry

The MYONET Registry was created in 2003 and was previously named the “Euromyositis Registry”.(7) The questions related to the registry were formulated following a Delphi process and consensus discussion among Rheumatology and Neurology experts led to the creation of a uniform data collection proforma for use by all participating centres. Anonymised data from the registry was downloaded on 29 November 2021 which included 4,806 cases from 112 centres, in 37 countries (Supplementary Table S1).

ASyS and DM cohort definitions

As per registry inclusion criteria, all patients with DM met Bohan and Peter ‘definite’ or ‘probable’ diagnostic criteria, and all patients with ASyS met diagnostic criteria proposed by Connors *et al.*(8, 9) For this study, cohorts of patients with ASyS or DM were defined based on the presence of ARS or DM-specific autoantibodies.(3) Patients with any of the seven ARS autoantibodies (anti-Jo1, -PL12, -PL7, -EJ, -OJ, -Zo, or -KS) detectable were defined as having ASyS, and patients with any of the five DM-specific autoantibodies (anti-Mi2, -TIF1γ, -SAE, -MDA5, or -NXP2) were defined as having DM. As Bohan and Peter diagnostic criteria for DM requires cutaneous involvement, patients with DM *sine* dermatitis are not defined as DM in the registry. Five patients with both ARS and DM-specific autoantibodies were excluded. The presence of myositis-specific autoantibodies was reported by clinicians and results recorded within the registry. Methods for antibody testing varied depending on regional laboratory practices and were tabulated (Supplementary Table S2).

Case characteristics

Patient demographics including sex, age at diagnosis, and smoking status, autoantibodies, and clinical characteristics were collated. Clinical characteristics including the presence of myopathic muscle weakness, seven DM-type cutaneous manifestations (heliotrope rash, Gottron’s papules/sign, violaceous rash, erythroderma, periorbital rash, V sign rash, and shawl sign), 11 extramuscular manifestations (periungual erythema, calcinosis, ulceration, vasculitis, mechanic’s hands, Raynaud’s phenomenon, arthritis, dysphagia, alopecia, ILD, and cardiac involvement), location and number of malignancies were recorded.

Definition of ASyS with and without DM-type skin involvement sub-cohorts

Sub-cohorts of patients with ASyS with DM-type skin involvement (ASyS-DMskin) and those without DM-type skin involvement (ASyS-without-DMskin) were identified based on reported case characteristics. Patients with one or more of the DM-type cutaneous manifestation were considered to have DM-type skin involvement, and those with none considered without DM-type skin involvement. The sum of reported DM-type cutaneous manifestations out of a possible seven was calculated.

Malignancy

Within the registry, malignancy is recorded including the date of diagnosis. In this analysis we considered malignancies diagnosed within three years of IIM onset to be ‘cancer-associated myositis’ (CAM). The location of CAM was compared between cohorts. Skin malignancies (including benign skin lesions such as basal cell

carcinomas) were excluded except for melanoma. Malignancy was recorded variably by each centre, where in the UK the registry is linked to the National Health Service (NHS) Digital service which records malignancy, whereas other centres relied on entering malignancy data manually.

Missing data

Comparing prevalence of the clinical manifestations in our cohort with previously reported data suggested that the data was missing not at random (MNAR), and that it was more likely that data was missing when the clinical characteristic was not present. Therefore, for statistical analysis imputation of missing values was considered inappropriate, and entries of clinical characteristics which were missing were considered not present. The number of missing entries for each clinical characteristic was tabulated (Supplementary Table S3).

Statistical Analysis

Between group comparisons were assessed using descriptive statistics as appropriate, with a threshold for significance set at $p < 0.05$. The Benjamini-Hochberg procedure was used to adjust for multiple comparisons to create adjusted p-values.⁽¹⁰⁾ Statistical analyses were performed in R version 4.1.0 and RStudio version 1.4.1106.⁽¹¹⁾

Ethics

All patients gave informed written consent for their data to be analysed as part of this study. The MYONET (previously EuroMyositis) registry includes multiple recruiting centres in multiple countries, where ethical approvals are required and have been sought at each centre and informed consent is obtained from all included patients. All centres obtained specific ethical approval from their local ethics committees for this study.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Results

Case characteristics

Data regarding 4,806 cases were initially analysed. Patients without results of autoantibody testing available were excluded (n=1,606) leaving 3,200 cases (Supplementary Table S4). Of these, patients without ASyS or DM-specific autoantibodies (n=2,146) were excluded. A cohort of 405 patients with DM-specific autoantibodies was identified, while 649 patients with ARS autoantibodies were identified (Figure 1).

Demographics

Demographics including female sex, age at diagnosis, and smoking status were compared between DM and ASyS groups. There was a significantly higher proportion of female sex in the ASyS-DMskin compared to the ASyS-without-DMskin cohorts (n=147/203, 72% vs n=278/446, 62%, p=0.045). Age at diagnosis was significantly higher in the ASyS-without-DMskin cohort compared to the ASyS-DMskin cohort (51 (IQR 40 to 62) vs 47 years (IQR 38 to 53), p=0.005). Finally, there was a higher proportion of smokers in the ASyS cohort compared to the DM cohort (n=197/649, 30% vs n=96/405, 24%, p=0.023). (Supplementary Table S5).

Prevalence of disease-specific autoantibodies

The most common autoantibody in the DM cohort was anti-Mi2 (n=162/405, 40%) followed by -TIF1γ (n=143/405, 35%), -MDA5 (n=66/405, 16%), -SAE (n=39/405, 10%), and -NXP2 (n=9/405, 2%) (Supplementary Table S6). In the ASyS cohort the majority possessed anti-Jo1 (n=542/649, 84%) with a lower proportion possessing other ARS: anti-PL12 (n=41/649, 6%), -PL7 (n=35/649, 5%), -EJ (n=16/649, 3%), -OJ (n=10/649, 2%) and -Zo (n=6/649, 1%) (Supplementary Table S6). There were no patients with anti-Ha antibodies recorded in the registry.

Comparison of clinical characteristics between DM and ASyS cohorts

There were no significant differences in the presence of myopathic muscle weakness between DM and ASyS cohorts (Table 1). Patients in the DM cohort had a significantly higher frequency of each of the seven specified DM-type rashes compared to the ASyS cohort (Table 1). The extramuscular manifestations traditionally associated with ASyS (ILD, arthritis, Raynaud's, mechanic's hands) and cardiac involvement were predictably more common in this group compared to DM. Periungual erythema, ulceration, calcinosis, alopecia, vasculitis, and dysphagia were more frequent in DM compared to ASyS, although there was overlap of these features across the two conditions (Table 1).

ASyS with DM-type skin involvement sub-cohort and comparison of clinical characteristics with DM cohort

The DM cohort was compared to ASyS patients possessing DM-type rashes. Of the 649 patients in the ASyS cohort, 31% (n=203/649) had at least one of the seven DM-type rashes indicating skin involvement. Heliotrope rash, violaceous rash, V sign, and shawl sign were significantly more frequent in the DM cohort compared to the ASyS-DMskin sub-cohort, whereas there was no difference in frequency between DM and ASyS-DMskin for the remaining three DM-type rashes (Gottron's papules/sign, periorbital rash, erythroderma). As was observed in the overall ASyS cohort, ILD, arthritis, Raynaud's, mechanic's hands, and cardiac involvement were significantly more frequent in the ASyS-DMskin sub-cohort, compared to the DM cohort. However, there were

no significant differences in the frequency of myopathic muscle weakness, periungual erythema, calcinosis, vasculitis, and alopecia in the ASyS-DMskin and DM cohorts. (Table 1)

For the DM cohort, the median number of DM-type rashes reported was two out of seven (interquartile range (IQR) 1-4), which was significantly higher than the overall ASyS cohort (median 0, IQR 0-1, $p < 0.001$), and compared to the ASyS-DMskin sub-cohort (median 2, IQR 1-2, $p < 0.001$) (Supplementary Table S7).

A comparison of extramuscular manifestations between the ASyS-DMskin and ASyS-without-DMskin sub-cohorts showed that the frequency of periungual erythema, calcinosis, mechanic's hands, ulceration was significantly higher in the ASyS-DMskin sub-cohort (Table 1).

Comparison of clinical characteristics in ASyS and in DM by antibody

In patients with ASyS, DM-type cutaneous manifestations were seen in 25% ($n = 136/542$) of those with anti-Jo1, 27% ($n = 11/41$) with -PL12, 23% ($n = 8/35$) with -PL7, 19% ($n = 3/16$) with -EJ, 40% ($n = 4/10$) with -OJ, and 0% ($n = 0/6$) with -Zo antibodies (Supplementary Table S8). The frequency of myopathic muscle weakness, arthritis, and dysphagia within the ASyS cohort was not equally distributed across the different anti-ARS antibody subtypes where the lowest frequency of myopathic muscle weakness seen in those with anti-PL12 antibodies (46%, $n = 19/41$), and the highest frequency of arthritis and dysphagia seen in those anti-Zo antibodies (67%, $n = 4/6$ and 50%, $n = 3/6$, respectively) (Supplementary Table S8). The frequency of periungual erythema, ulceration, mechanic's hands, arthritis, dysphagia, alopecia, and ILD, as well as the frequency of certain DM-type cutaneous manifestations (Heliotrope rash, Gottron's papules/sign, Violaceous rash, Periorbital rash, and V-sign rash) within the DM cohort were not equally distributed across DM antibody subtypes (Supplementary Table S9). In those with anti-MDA5 antibodies there was high frequency of extramuscular manifestations including calcinosis (13%, $n = 8/63$), mechanic's hands (27%, $n = 17/63$), arthritis (38%, $n = 24/63$), and ILD (57%, $n = 36/63$). Cutaneous manifestations were generally more generally more frequent in those with anti-TIF1 γ antibodies and in those with anti-SAE antibodies and less frequent in those with anti-MDA5 and anti-Mi2 antibodies.

Comparison of CAM in disease cohorts and by antibody

The number of patients with at least one CAM was significantly higher in the DM cohort compared to the ASyS cohort ($n = 67/405$, 17% vs $n = 21/649$, 3%, $p_{\text{adjusted}} < 0.001$), and in the DM cohort compared to the ASyS-DMskin cohort ($n = 67/405$, 17% vs $n = 7/203$, 3%, $p_{\text{adjusted}} < 0.001$) (Table 1). There was no significant difference between the frequency of CAM in ASyS-DMskin compared to ASyS-without-DMskin cohorts ($n = 7/203$, 3% vs $n = 14/446$, 3%, $p_{\text{adjusted}} = 1$) (Table 1).

Bowel (12/405, 3% vs 2/649, 0.3%, $p_{\text{adjusted}} = 0.013$), breast (16/405, 4% vs 7/649, 1%, $p_{\text{adjusted}} = 0.02$), lung (10/405, 3% vs 3/649, 0.5%, $p_{\text{adjusted}} = 0.03$), and ovarian cancers (15/405, 4% vs 0/649, 0%, $p_{\text{adjusted}} = 0.007$) were more frequently reported in DM compared to ASyS (Supplementary Table S10). There were no significant differences in location of CAM between DM and ASyS-DMskin, or between ASyS-DMskin and ASyS-without-DMskin cohorts (Supplementary Table S10). The frequency of CAM was not equally distributed between

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

antibody subtypes, X^2 (degrees of freedom (df)=9, n=737, $p_{\text{adjusted}} < 0.001$), and notably the highest frequency of CAM was observed in anti-TIF1 γ patients (33%, n=46/138) (Supplementary Table S11).

Discussion

We identified several important findings including: 1) one third of ASyS patients have DM-type cutaneous manifestations; 2) DM-specific skin rashes in ASyS patients were associated with a distinct phenotype including higher frequency of mechanic's hands, Raynaud's phenomenon, arthritis, ILD, and cardiac involvement and lower frequency of ulceration, and dysphagia; and 3) DM-specific skin rash in ASyS patients was not associated with increased risk of cancer.

First, our study demonstrates that a third of patients with ASyS have DM-type cutaneous manifestations. Our results are consistent with the previous largest published study (n=233) which found DM-type cutaneous manifestations with a prevalence of 28% in patients with ASyS.(6) This confirms that DM-type cutaneous manifestations are observed in a substantial proportion of patients with ASyS. Interestingly, our cohort also includes patients with EJ, OJ, and Zo antibodies, whereas the previous study included patients with Jo1, PL12, and PL7.(6) Our study therefore supports previous notions that a large proportion of ASyS patients have DM-specific skin manifestations, regardless of autoantibody status. Clinicians should therefore be vigilant for DM-specific manifestations in ASyS patients and actively treat them due to their detrimental impact on quality of life.(12)

Second, our study demonstrates that DM-specific rashes in ASyS patients are associated with a distinct phenotype which differentiates them from DM and from ASyS patients without DM-specific rashes. However, we also noted that increased frequency of cardiac involvement differentiated ASyS from DM, and that increased frequency of mechanic's hands, calcinosis, ulceration and periungual erythema differentiate ASyS-DMskin from ASyS-without-DMskin, suggesting that the pathogenesis underlying ASyS-specific cutaneous manifestations may have additional vascular and endothelial aetiologies over and above that which is seen in DM-specific cutaneous manifestations. We identified clinical features, including increased frequency of mechanic's hands, Raynaud's phenomenon, arthritis, cardiac involvement and ILD which differentiate ASyS-DMskin from DM. Therefore, clinicians should consider a diagnosis of ASyS if these clinical signs are noted in the presence of DM-type rashes. Conversely, certain DM-type rashes (heliotope rash, V sign, violaceous rash, and shawl sign) differentiate DM from ASyS-DMskin, and were infrequently observed in ASyS. Therefore, clinicians may not need to prioritise ASyS highly in the presence of these DM-type rashes and should instead prioritise a diagnosis of DM, and ensure malignancy screening and that other disease-specific management considerations are appropriately targeted.

Third, our study assesses whether ASyS-DMskin is associated with an increased risk of CAM and found that CAM was more frequent in DM compared to ASyS, as previously reported, but that CAM was not more frequent in ASyS-DMskin compared to ASyS-without-DMskin. The surveillance of malignancy is vital in the clinical management of DM given that it is the main cause of death in patients with IIM.(14) Interestingly, presence of anti-ARS, and ILD have been associated with a lower risk of CAM, suggesting that patients with ASyS may have reduced risk of CAM compared to other IIM subtypes such as DM.(1, 15) Our findings suggest that although the cutaneous manifestations in ASyS-DMskin may be driven by similar biological processes as in

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

DM, in ASyS-DMskin this may not confer increased risk of CAM. Therefore, in clinical practice, skin involvement in ASyS need not prompt increased surveillance or investigation for CAM.

The main strength of our study is the use of international, registry data which includes the largest reported cohort of patients with DM and ASyS representing patients from centres around the world with different ethnicities. This is important given that DM and ASyS are rare diseases and would be otherwise difficult to study. However, use of registry data has limitations. First, missing data is an issue which may affect the accuracy of our findings. Second, although international collaboration is a strength when studying rare diseases, variations in clinical practice may lead to variability in reporting across centres. Third, although all patients in the MYONET registry have met current IIM classification criteria, we have further defined our DM and ASyS cohorts based on the presence of autoantibodies; however, not all patients with IIM have identifiable autoantibodies, for example, one study found 28% of DM cases were seronegative, and certain rare ASyS antibodies cannot be tested for in routine clinical practice and are therefore not represented in our study.(16) Fourth, the registry relies on clinicians with an expertise in IIM to apply IIM classification criteria prior to inclusion, and case notes were not reviewed or verified potentially introducing a degree of misclassification. Fifth, the data analysed in this study is cross-sectional meaning clinical features which develop after entry to the registry are not captured. Finally, our analysis makes no comparison to healthy or connective tissue disease populations. Therefore, we cannot draw conclusions about whether frequency of malignancy in ASyS is higher than the general population.

In conclusion, this is the largest study to date comparing clinical manifestations in ASyS to DM, and the first study to specifically investigate a cohort with ASyS and skin manifestations akin to DM. A third of patients with ASyS have DM-type cutaneous involvement compatible with a diagnosis of DM, but although this cohort resembles DM in terms of skin rashes, there are specific clinical manifestations which differentiate the two, and risk of CAM is lower than DM and similar to ASyS patients without DM-type skin involvement. Work to elucidate the biological processes underlying clinical manifestations in these cohorts would improve our ability to classify patients and develop targeted treatments for specific disease manifestations. These findings can inform future ASyS classification criteria and improve our ability to classify patients and develop targeted treatments for specific disease manifestations.

Tables/Figures

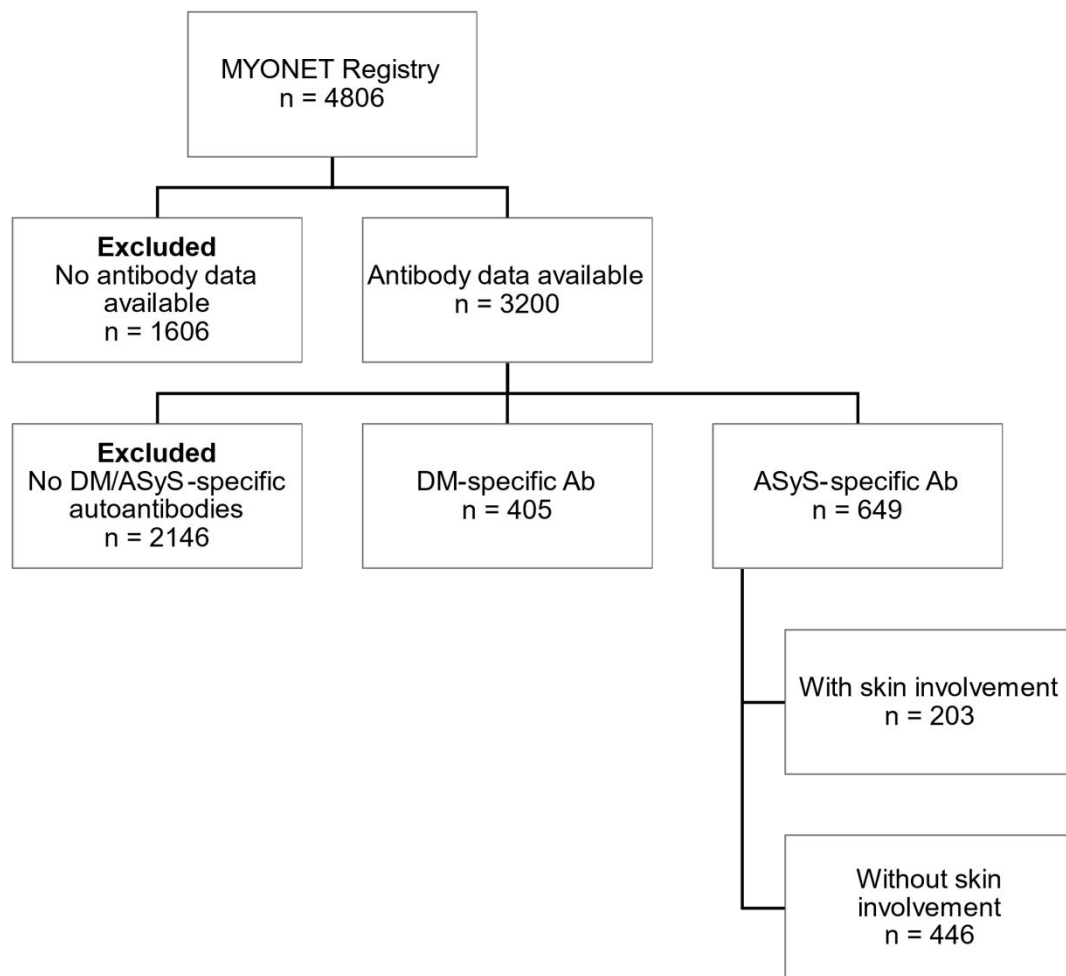


Figure 1 Flowchart illustrating the patients from the Euromyositis registry which were included and excluded from the study

DM-specific Ab refers to Mi2, TIF1 γ , SAE, MDA5, and NXP2. ASyS-specific Ab refers to Jo1, PL12, PL7, EJ, OJ, Zo, and KS.

Table 1 Clinical manifestations of disease

	DM (n=405)	ASyS (n=649)	ASyS-DMskin (n=203)	ASyS-without- DMskin (n=446)	DM vs ASyS Adjusted p-value ¹	DM vs ASyS- DMskin Adjusted p-value ¹	ASyS-DMskin vs ASyS-without- DMskin Adjusted p-value ¹
Myopathic Muscle Weakness n (%)	350 (86)	549 (85)	178 (88)	371 (83)	0.468	0.758	0.175
DM-type cutaneous manifestations n (%)							
Heliotrope Rash	248 (61)	90 (14)	90 (44)	0 (0)	<0.001	<0.001	
Gottron's Papules or Sign	254 (63)	141 (22)	141 (70)	0 (0)	<0.001	0.152	
Violaceous Rash	166 (41)	57 (9)	57 (28)	0 (0)	<0.001	0.004	
Erythroderma	37 (9)	15 (2)	15 (7)	0 (0)	<0.001	0.599	
Periorbital Rash	97 (24)	38 (6)	38 (19)	0 (0)	<0.001	0.207	
V Sign Rash	124 (31)	28 (4)	28 (14)	0 (0)	<0.001	<0.001	
Shawl Sign	133 (33)	18 (3)	18 (9)	0 (0)	<0.001	<0.001	
Extramuscular manifestations n (%)							
Periungual Erythema	148 (37)	110 (17)	56 (28)	54 (12)	<0.001	0.0503	<0.001
Calcinosis	22 (5)	13 (2)	9 (4)	4 (1)	0.0044	0.74	<0.001
Ulceration	28 (7)	8 (1)	4 (2)	4 (1)	<0.001	0.0272	0.0221
Vasculitis	11 (3)	2 (0.3)	0 (0)	2 (0.4)	0.0018	0.0552	0.533
Mechanic's Hands	45 (11)	200 (31)	84 (41)	116 (26)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Raynaud's Phenomenon	55 (14)	252 (39)	90 (44)	162 (36)	<0.001	<0.001	0.109
Arthritis	64 (16)	312 (48)	101 (50)	211 (47)	<0.001	<0.001	0.679
Dysphagia	134 (33)	128 (20)	47 (23)	81 (18)	<0.001	<0.001	0.254
Alopecia	47 (12)	39 (6)	18 (9)	21 (5)	0.002	0.417	0.118
Interstitial Lung Disease	74 (18)	441 (68)	126 (62)	315 (71)	<0.001	<0.001	0.091
Cardiac Involvement	9 (2)	46 (7)	19 (9)	27 (6)	<0.001	<0.001	0.233
CAM n (%)	67 (17)	21 (3)	7 (3)	14 (3)	<0.001	<0.001	1

¹Chi-squared test

DM = dermatomyositis; ASyS = antisynthetase syndrome; ASyS-DMskin = antisynthetase syndrome with skin involvement; ASyS-without-DMskin = antisynthetase syndrome without skin involvement; CAM = cancer-associated myositis.

Acknowledgements

MYONET registry Collaborators

Belgium: Sophie D'Hose (University Hospital, Ghent). China: Xin Lu and Xiaolan Tian (China-Japan Friendship Hospital, Beijing). Czech Republic: Heřman Mann, Olga Kryštořková, Lenka Pleštilová, Martin Klein, Tereza Barochová, Kateřina Kubínová (Institute of Rheumatology, Prague). Italy: Chiara Gelardi, Alberto Paladini, Mario Andrea Piga. Mexico: Mexico: Luis J Jara (Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación Luis Guillermo Ibarra Ibarra), Miguel A Saavedra (Servicio de Reumatología, Hospital de Especialidades, Centro Médico La Raza, IMSS), Claudia V Cruz-Reyes (Servicio de Reumatología, Hospital de Especialidades, Centro Médico La Raza, IMSS), Olga Vera-Lastra (Servicio de Medicina Interna, Hospital de Especialidades, Centro Médico La Raza, IMSS), Lilia Andrade-Ortega (Servicio de Reumatología, Centro Medico Nacional 20 de Noviembre ISSSTE), Gabriel Medrano-Ramírez (Servicio de Reumatología, Hospital General de Mexico, Secretaria de Salud), Minoru Satoh (University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Kitakyushu, Japan), Mario Salazar-Páramo (Departamento de Fisiología, Centro Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad de Guadalajara), Efrain Chavarría-Ávila (Servicio de Reumatología 004086 del SNP CONACyT, Hospital Civil Dr Juan I Menchaca, Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Jalisco), Andrea Aguilar-Vazquez (Instituto de Investigación en Reumatología y del Sistema Músculo Esquelético, CUCS, Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Jalisco), Jesus-Aureliano Robles-de Anda (Instituto de Investigación en Reumatología y del Sistema Músculo Esquelético, CUCS, Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Jalisco), (Marcelo H Petri, (Instituto de Investigación en Reumatología y del Sistema Músculo Esquelético, CUCS, Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Jalisco). Norway: Øyvind Molberg (Oslo University Hospital, Oslo). Sweden: Maryam Dastmalchi, Antonella Notarnicola, Karina Gheorghe (all Rheumatology Unit, Karolinska University Hospital, Karolinska Institutet), Johan Rönnelid, Maria Liden (both Uppsala University, Uppsala), Balsam Hanna, (Sahlgrenska Academy, Göteborg), Awat Jalal (Örebro Hospital), Helena Hellström (Falun), Jehns Christian Martineus (Lund University). Vietnam: Nguyen Thi Ngoc Lan (Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam), Leonid Padyukov (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden). United Kingdom: Paul New (Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust), Hazel Platt (Centre for Integrated Genomic Medical Research, University of Manchester), Simon Rothwell (Centre for Integrated Genomic Medical Research, University of Manchester). UKMYONET: Yasmeen Ahmed (Llandudno General Hospital), Raymond Armstrong (Southampton General Hospital), Robert Bernstein (Manchester Royal Infirmary), Carol Black (Royal Free Hospital, London), Simon Bowman (University Hospital, Birmingham), Ian Bruce (Manchester Royal Infirmary), Robin Butler (Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry), John Carty (Lincoln County Hospital), Chandra Chattopadhyay (Wrightington Hospital), Easwaradhas Chelliah (Wrightington Hospital), Fiona Clarke (James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough), Peter Dawes (Staffordshire Rheumatology Centre, Stoke on Trent), Christopher Denton (Royal Free London), Joseph Devlin (Pinderfields General Hospital, Wakefield), Christopher Edwards (Southampton General Hospital), Paul Emery (Academic Unit of Musculoskeletal Disease, Leeds), John Fordham (South Cleveland Hospital, Middlesbrough), Alexander Fraser (Academic Unit of Musculoskeletal Disease, Leeds), Hill Gaston (Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge), Patrick Gordon (King's College Hospital, London), Bridget Griffiths (Freeman Hospital, Newcastle), Harsha Gunawardena (Frenchay Hospital, Bristol), Frances Hall (Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge), Michael Hanna (University College London Hospitals), Beverley Harrison (North Manchester General Hospital), Elaine Hay (Staffordshire Rheumatology Centre, Stoke

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

on Trent), David Hilton-Jones (Oxford University Hospitals), Lesley Horden (Dewsbury District General Hospital), John Isaacs (Freeman Hospital, Newcastle), David Isenberg (University College London Hospitals), Adrian Jones (Nottingham University Hospital), Sanjeet Kamath (Staffordshire Rheumatology Centre, Stoke on Trent), Thomas Kennedy (Royal Liverpool Hospital), George Kitas (Dudley Group Hospitals Trust, Birmingham), Peter Klimiuk (Royal Oldham Hospital), Sally Knights (Yeovil District Hospital, Somerset), John Lambert (Doncaster Royal Infirmary), Peter Lanyon (Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham), Ramasharan Laxminarayan (Queen's Hospital, Burton Upon Trent), Bryan Lecky (Walton Neuroscience Centre, Liverpool), Raashid Luqmani (Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford), Pedro Machado (University College London Hospitals), Jeffrey Marks (Steeping Hill Hospital, Stockport), Michael Martin (St. James University Hospital, Leeds), Dennis McGonagle (Academic Unit of Musculoskeletal Disease, Leeds), Neil McHugh (Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath), Francis McKenna (Trafford General Hospital, Manchester), John McLaren (Cameron Hospital, Fife), Michael McMahon (Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary, Dumfries), Euan McRorie (Western General Hospital, Edinburgh), Peter Merry (Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital, Norwich), Sarah Miles (Dewsbury & District General Hospital, Dewsbury), James Miller (Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle), Anne Nicholls (West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds), Jennifer Nixon (Countess of Chester Hospital, Chester), Voon Ong (Royal Free Hospital, London), Katherine Over (Countess of Chester Hospital, Chester), John Packham (Staffordshire Rheumatology Centre, Stoke on Trent), Nicolo Pipitone (King's College Hospital, London), Michael Plant (South Cleveland Hospital, Middlesbrough), Gillian Pountain (Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon), Thomas Pullar (Ninewells Hospital, Dundee), Mark Roberts (Salford Royal Foundation Trust), Paul Sanders (Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester), David Scott (King's College Hospital, London), David Scott (Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital, Norwich), Michael Shadforth (Staffordshire Rheumatology Centre, Stoke on Trent), Thomas Sheeran (Cannock Chase Hospital, Cannock, Staffordshire), Arul Srinivasan (Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford), David Swinson (Wrightington Hospital), Lee-Suan Teh (Royal Blackburn Hospital, Blackburn), Michael Webley (Stoke Manderville Hospital, Aylesbury), Brian Williams (University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff) and Jonathan Winer (Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham).

Support

This research was supported by researchers at the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) (NIHR203308). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.

Funding statement

This study was supported in part by: Association Francaise Contre Les Myopathies (AFM), The European Union Sixth Framework Programme (project AutoCure; LSH-018661), European Science Foundation (ESF) in the framework of the Research Networking Programme European Myositis Network (EUMYONET), The Swedish Research Council (K2014-52X-14045-14-3) and the regional agreement on medical training and clinical research (ALF) between Stockholm County Council and Karolinska Institutet; Myositis UK; Medical Research Council (MRC) UK grant MR/N003322/1; Arthritis Research UK (18474). The Czech cohort was supported by Project for Conceptual Development of Research Organization 00023728 from Ministry of Health in the Czech Republic.

Conflicts of interest

BM declares the following conflicts of interest: Consultancies with Novartis, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen-Cilag, GSK, grant/research support from AbbVie, Protagen, Novartis Biomedical; speaker fees from Boehringer-Ingelheim, GSK, Novartis as well as congress support from Medtalk, Pfizer, Roche, Actelion, Mepha, and MSD. In addition, patent mir-29 for the treatment of systemic sclerosis issued (US9247389, EP2331143). LPD has received funding from Boehringer Ingelheim and has served on a data safety monitoring board for Corbus Pharmaceuticals.

Ethics

All patients gave informed written consent for their data to be analysed as part of this study. The MYONET (previously EuroMyositis) registry includes multiple recruiting centres in multiple countries, where ethical approvals are required and have been sought at each centre and informed consent is obtained from all included patients. All centres obtained specific ethical approval from their local ethics committees for this study.

Data availability

Data will be shared upon reasonable requests to the corresponding author.

References

1. Oldroyd A, Lilleker J, Chinoy H. Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies - a guide to subtypes, diagnostic approach and treatment. *Clin Med (Lond)*. 2017;17(4):322-8.
2. Witt LJ, Curran JJ, Strek ME. The Diagnosis and Treatment of Antisynthetase Syndrome. *Clin Pulm Med*. 2016;23(5):218-26.
3. McHugh NJ, Tansley SL. Autoantibodies in myositis. *Nat Rev Rheumatol*. 2018;14(5):290-302.
4. Lundberg IE, Tjärnlund A, Bottai M, Werth VP, Pilkington C, Visser M, et al. 2017 European League Against Rheumatism/American College of Rheumatology classification criteria for adult and juvenile idiopathic inflammatory myopathies and their major subgroups. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2017;76(12):1955-64.
5. Mammen AL, Allenbach Y, Stenzel W, Benveniste O. 239th ENMC International Workshop: Classification of dermatomyositis, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 14-16 December 2018. *Neuromuscul Disord*. 2020;30(1):70-92.
6. Hervier B, Devilliers H, Stanciu R, Meyer A, Uzunhan Y, Masseau A, et al. Hierarchical cluster and survival analyses of antisynthetase syndrome: phenotype and outcome are correlated with anti-tRNA synthetase antibody specificity. *Autoimmun Rev*. 2012;12(2):210-7.
7. Lilleker JB, Vencovsky J, Wang G, Wedderburn LR, Diederichsen LP, Schmidt J, et al. The EuroMyositis registry: an international collaborative tool to facilitate myositis research. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2018;77(1):30-9.
8. Bohan A, Peter JB. Polymyositis and Dermatomyositis: (First of Two Parts). *New England Journal of Medicine*. 1975;292(7):344-7.
9. Connors GR, Christopher-Stine L, Oddis CV, Danoff SK. Interstitial lung disease associated with the idiopathic inflammatory myopathies: what progress has been made in the past 35 years? *Chest*. 2010;138(6):1464-74.
10. Benjamini Y, Hochberg Y. Controlling the False Discovery Rate: A Practical and Powerful Approach to Multiple Testing. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series B (Methodological)*. 1995;57(1):289-300.
11. Team RC. R: A language and environment for statistical computing. 2015.
12. Hundley JL, Carroll CL, Lang W, Snively B, Yosipovitch G, Feldman SR, et al. Cutaneous symptoms of dermatomyositis significantly impact patients' quality of life. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2006;54(2):217-20.
13. Solomon J, Swigris JJ, Brown KK. Myositis-related interstitial lung disease and antisynthetase syndrome. *J Bras Pneumol*. 2011;37(1):100-9.
14. Dobloug GC, Svensson J, Lundberg IE, Holmqvist M. Mortality in idiopathic inflammatory myopathy: results from a Swedish nationwide population-based cohort study. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2018;77(1):40-7.
15. Hamaguchi Y, Fujimoto M, Matsushita T, Kaji K, Komura K, Hasegawa M, et al. Common and distinct clinical features in adult patients with anti-aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase antibodies: heterogeneity within the syndrome. *PLoS One*. 2013;8(4):e60442.
16. Parker MJS, Oldroyd A, Roberts ME, Lilleker JB, Betteridge ZE, McHugh NJ, et al. The performance of the European League Against Rheumatism/American College of Rheumatology idiopathic inflammatory myopathies classification criteria in an expert-defined 10 year incident cohort. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*. 2019;58(3):468-75.