Performance of Remission Criteria and Activity Indices in Psoriatic Arthritis.

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Background/Purpose: Remission criteria and activity indices used in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are often applied in psoriatic arthritis (PsA). Although indices have been specifically developed for PsA: CPDAI (Composite Psoriatic Disease Activity Index), PASE (Psoriatic Arthritis Screening and Evaluation), DAPSA (Disease Activity index for Psoriatic Arthritis) and MDA (minimal disease activity criteria in Psoriatic Arthritis), few studies have compared their performance in PsA patients. The Objective was to evaluate the performance of different remission criteria and activity indices in PsA.

Methods: 55 consecutive patients with PsA (CASPAR criteria) were included. At study entry visit, information necessary to complete the following indices was captured: CPDAI, DAPSA, PASE, MDA, DAS28, SDAI, CDAI, and ACR/EULAR Boolean RA remission criteria. The following assessments were also included: HAQ, BASDAI, BASFI and PASI (Psoriatic Assessment of Skin Index).

Results: Mean age was 53 years (SD_12), and 35 (63.6%) were males. Mean PsA disease duration was 5.9 (SD_8.5) years and mean psoriasis duration was 15.9 (SD_12.6). Mean number of swollen and tender joint count was 2.4 (SD_3) and 4.3 (SD_6) respectively. Mean PASI was 1.9 (SD_2.7). In 33 patients (60%) the treating rheumatologist indicated a change in treatment.
All indices showed good discriminative power for a change in treatment in the ROC curve: PASE-AUC (area under curve) _ 0.78 (95% CI: 0.65–0.9); CPDAI-AUC_ 0.81 (95%CI: 0.7–0.9); DAPSA-AUC_ 0.78 (95% CI: 0.65–0.91), DAS28- AUC_ 0.92 (95%CI: 0.89–1); CDAI-AUC_ 0.93 (95%CI: 0.87–0.99); SDAI- AUC_ 0.89 (95% CI: 0.79–0.99).

**Conclusion:** There were differences in the percentage of patients classified as in remission by the different remission criteria. Particularly, DAS28 and MDA seemed to be less stringent in PsA than the other indices. Of the specific indices studied CPDAI showed the poorest correlation with all the other activity measurements.