

Conférence laurentienne de rhumatologie

Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology

Abstract #: 7

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Fatigue Measurements in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Objective(s): Fatigue is one of the most frequent symptoms in systemic lupus erythematosus(SLE), with a significant impact on quality of life. It is, however, difficult to measure. The Ad Hoc Committee on SLE Response Criteria for Fatigue in 2007 recommended the use of the Krupp Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS) in future studies. Since then, the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy, FACIT- Fatigue score has been validated in SLE. The aim of this study was to perform a review of the instruments used to measure fatigue in adult SLE patients from 2007 onward.

Method(s): We performed a systematic search of Medline and EMBase from 2008 to October 2017, using search terms to locate clinical trials and observational studies in adult SLE, where fatigue was an outcome. All English and French studies were reviewed to determine which fatigue measures were used.

Result(s): 22 studies met our inclusion criteria. Among them, 8 fatigue scales were used. Overall, the most frequently used instruments were the FSS (used in 32%), the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) for fatigue (32%) and the FACIT- Fatigue score (14%). The FSS was used in the majority of clinical trials (5 of 12; 42%) with the remaining evenly divided between the two other scales. The VAS was used by the majority of observational studies (5 of 10; 50%), followed by the FSS (2 of 10; 20%).

Conclusion(s): The FSS, VAS and FACIT Fatigue Scale were the most frequently used instruments to measure fatigue in adult SLE studies from 2008-2017.
