

Clinical manifestations of HLA B51(5) positive patients in University Hospital of Split

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Introduction: HLA B51(5) is one of two different split antigens of the HLA-B5 serotype and is associated with the risk of developing Behcet's disease, although some clinical studies have found a possible link with other rheumatic diseases (1, 2). The aim of this study was to assess the clinical manifestations of HLA B51(5) positive patients in the population of patients examined in the Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University Hospital of Split.

Methods: This study included 176 patients who are carriers of HLA B51(5). The data were collected from archives of the Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University Hospital of Split for the period from Jan 2010 to Jun 2021.

Evaluation: Of the 172 patients, 128 (74%) were female and 44 (26%) were male and the average age was 56 years. The most common clinical manifestations of HLA B51(5) in our population are arthritis and arthralgia present in 88.37% of patients, and the most common form of arthritis is spondyloarthritis present in 73 (42.44%) subjects. Other specific clinical manifestations include sicca syndrome in 24 (13.9%) patients, rheumatoid arthritis in 19 (11.04%) patients, thyroid dysfunction in 25 (14.53%) patients and polymyositis in 1 (0.58%) patient. The most frequent thyroid disorder was hypothyroidism (Fig. 1).

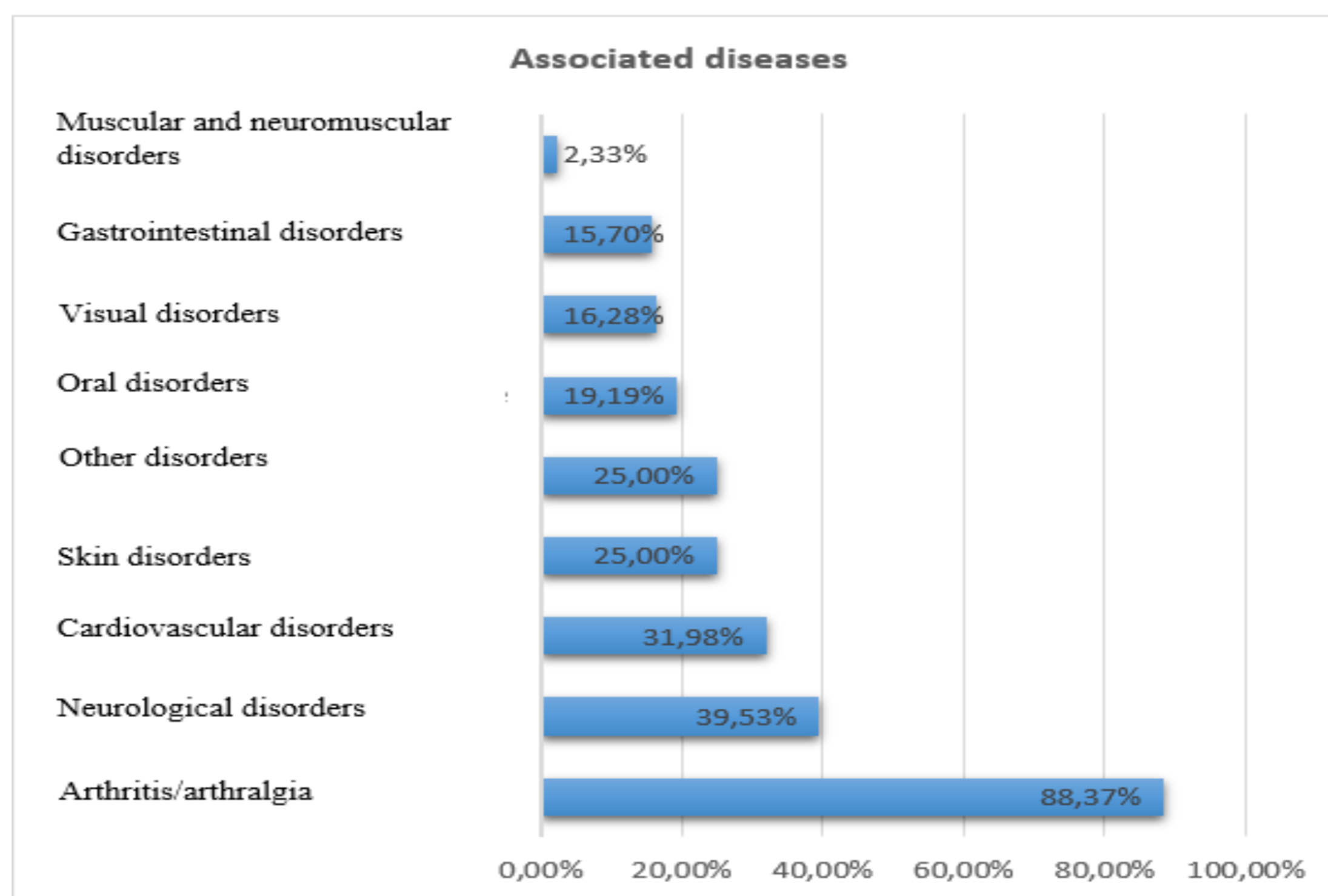


Figure 1. Prevalence of associated diseases

Conclusions: The most common clinical manifestations of HLA B51(5) positive patients in our population are arthritis and arthralgia, and the most common form of arthritis is spondyloarthritis, suggesting that HLA B51(5) may be a potential risk factor for developing spondyloarthritis. Also, our results suggest that HLA B51(5) has an unrecognized role in inducing, modulating, or regulating other autoimmune diseases, not only Behcet's disease.

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2. Salayandia L, Sibbitt W Jr., Bankhurst A, et al. HLA B51 and Possible Associated Autoimmune Disorders Other Than Behçets Disease: A Retrospective Cohort Study [summary]. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* 2015.