

VERTEBRAL DEFORMITIES IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

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Objectives. Information about the prevalence of osteoporosis among patients with psoriasis is controversial.

Aim. The aim of the study was to assess BMD, bone quality and the prevalence of vertebral deformities in patients with psoriatic arthritis.

Materials and methods. We examined 37 patients with psoriatic arthritis (21 males, 16 females, mean age $47,8 \pm 2,4$ years). The control group consisted of 20 health age- and BMD-matched persons (12 males, 8 females). BMD was measured with DXA at spine (L1-L4) and at femoral neck. Vertebrae were assessed with lateral vertebral assessment (LVA) at the thoracic and lumbar spine. We used the Genant's classification

to evaluate a grade of vertebral deformity. Spiral deformity index (SDI) proposed as surrogate marker of bone quality, was calculated by summing the severity and the number of the vertebral fractures.

Results. BMD was lower in patients with psoriatic arthritis either at spine (BMD $0,987 \pm 0,17$ g/cm² $p=0,041$ and at femoral neck (BMD $0,892 \pm 0,21$ g/cm² $p=0,035$) in comparison with controls.

24 % of patients with psoriatic arthritis had vertebral deformities (n=13), that was statistically higher than in control group (5, 0% n=1 $p=0,04$).

Conclusions. Psoriatic arthritis showed an increased prevalence of vertebral deformities, regardless of BMD. A subsequent study has to be performed to confirm