GENDER DIFFERENCES IN CLINICAL AND ANGIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS AMONG KOREAN PATIENTS WITH TAKAYASU ARTERITIS

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Objectives: Takayasu arteritis (TA) is a rare aortitis predominantly in young female. There is a wide variation in female to male ratio amongst patients of TA in various countries. Male patients with TA are expected to have different clinical features from those of females. However, there has been only one report comparing gender differences in Indian TA patients. We aimed to analyze the clinical and angiographic features between male and female patients.

Methods: Two hundred five patients were diagnosed as having TA according to American College of Rheumatology 1990 criteria from 1994 to 2009. Male to female ratio was 1:7.9 (23 vs 182 patients). Their clinical and angiographic features were analyzed.

Results: Their mean age at diagnosis was 33.9 +/- 11.4 vs 35.6 +/- 13.4 years (male vs female p=0.92). Hypertension was present in 18 (78%) of male patients and in 123 (69%) of female patients (p=0.30), and chronic renal disease present in 1 (4.3%) and 6 (3.4%) of these patients, respectively (p=0.58). ESR was lower in male patients (18.2 +/- 22.4 vs 36.6 +/- 31.1 mm/hr, p=0.001). CRP showed a lower trend in male patients (0.69 +/- 1.23 vs 1.38 +/- 2.74 mg/dl, p=0.24). The incidence of aortic involvement in the ascending aorta, arch, descending thoracic aorta, and abdominal aorta in male vs female patients were 32% vs 49% (p=0.12), 4.5% vs 42% (p=0.001), 27% vs 62% (p=0.002), 61% vs 64% (p=0.79), respectively. Among aortic branches, male patients had less involvement of the left subclavian artery (44% vs 71%, p=0.008), right common carotid artery (44% vs 67%, p=0.03) and left common carotid artery (44% vs 75%, p=0.001), and more involvement of the iliac artery (35% vs 17%, p=0.053).

Conclusion: Male patients with TA have a tendency towards lower inflammatory activity and lower frequency of involvement of the aortic arch and its branches. Our study has implication in gender-specific management of TA. Further studies are needed to figure out these differences will result in different clinical outcomes.