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Yes

Title: Effect of Smoking on Susceptibility to Sarcoidosis and Its Clinical Course in Japanese

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Rationale:

Several epidemiological studies have shown that there are few smokers among patients with sarcoidosis in the African American population. However, the association between smoking and susceptibility to sarcoidosis in Japanese is unknown. In addition, the effect of smoking on the clinical course of sarcoidosis is not fully understood.

Objective:

In this study, we evaluated the prevalence of smokers among patients with sarcoidosis that visited our hospital. The prevalence of individuals who had lung parenchymal lesion (stages I+II) on chest X-ray was evaluated according to smoking status. The effect of smoking on the clinical course of the disease (rate of regression) was also evaluated.

Methods:

A total of 281 patients with sarcoidosis were studied. After excluding 36 ex-smokers, 245 patients were divided into a smoking group (n=138) and a non-smoking group (n=107). The prevalence of individuals who had lung parenchymal lesion at an initial visit was compared between the smoking

and the non-smoking groups. The clinical course of the disease (rate of regression) after an observation period of 2 years from initial diagnosis was also compared between the two groups.

Results:

The prevalence of smokers at an initial visit was 38.1%, which was not as low as the prevalence of smokers in the general Japanese population (26.3%). The presence of lung parenchymal lesion was found more often in the smoking group than the non-smoking group (49.5% vs. 26.1%, $P<0.05$). However, smoking was not associated with the clinical course of the disease (rate of remission 35.1% vs. 38.8%, $P=0.71$).

Conclusion:

Smoking might be associated with the presence of lung parenchymal lesion in sarcoidosis, but not with susceptibility to the disease itself or with its clinical course.

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