



Association between psoriasis and coronary calcium score

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Staniak HL, Bittencourt MS, de Souza Santos I, Sharovsky R, Sabbag C, Goulart AC, Lotufo PA, Benseñor IM.

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Background

Emerging data suggests that chronic inflammatory disease, such as psoriasis, may be associated to coronary artery disease (CAD).

Objective

Analyze the association between psoriasis and subclinical atherosclerosis using coronary calcium score (CAC).

Methods

We investigated 221 participants with psoriasis and 718 age- and sex-matched controls without prior known CAD. All participants completed a questionnaire and underwent laboratory tests and a CAC exam. Logistic regression models adjusted for Framingham risk score (FRS) and C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) were built. CAC was included in the models as a binary variable with different cut off values.

Results

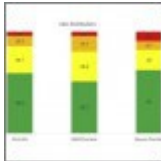
Body-mass index, race, hypertension, HDL, LDL and hs-CRP were significantly associated with psoriasis presence and severity. Psoriasis severity was significantly associated with CAC ($p = 0.04$), particularly for very high CAC (> 400) ($p < 0.01$). The OR for severe psoriasis and CAC > 400 was 2.45 (95%CI: 1.26-4.75) in unadjusted models. In a model adjusted for the FRS, this association was no longer significant, but a trend was noted ($p = 0.09$). No significant changes in the association were noted after the inclusion of hs-CRP in the model.

Conclusion

Psoriasis is associated with higher CAC values, mainly in individuals

with severe psoriasis. The current findings also suggest the potential involvement of other mechanisms beyond classical cardiovascular risk factors and inflammation in this association.

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This article by Staniak, et al., analyzes the association between psoriasis and subclinical atherosclerosis using coronary calcium score.

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