

INTRODUCTION

The usual onset of Behcet's disease (BD) is in the 2nd and 3rd decades of life. Late-onset BD are extremely rare, and studies regarding the relationship between the clinical course of the disease and age of onset are generally focused on the childhood period.

Aims of study

- To report the characteristics of late onset Behcet's disease in a cohort of patients from Iran's registry
- To compare with classic onset form

PATIENTS AND METHODS

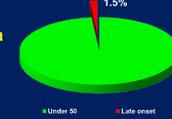
- Study setting**
 - ★ Retrospective cohort study
 - ★ Duration: 47 yrs (1975 – March 2022)
- BD diagnosis**
 - According to expert opinion
- Two groups**
 - ★ Late onset BD: Disease onset >50 yrs
 - ★ Classic onset BD: Disease onset between 20-39 yrs
- Patients' follow-up**
 - ★ Multidisciplinary clinic
 - ★ Once every 1 to 6 months (based on the severity of the disease)
- Data collection**
 - ★ A computerized data sheet of 105 items (including demographic, clinical, and laboratory)
- Statistical analysis**
 - ★ Percentage and CI at 95% (categorical variables)
 - ★ Mean and standard deviation (continuous items)
 - ★ Comparisons:
 - > Independent t-test or Mann-Whitney U-test (the quantitative variables)
 - > Chi-square test (qualitative or categorical variables)
 - ★ p-value < 0.05: Significant

RESULTS

Late onset BD in Iran
(Prevalence in Iran - cohort of 7787 patients)

Sensitivity of two international criteria

- ★ Revised ICBD: 90% (84.6 - 95.4)
- ★ ISG criteria: 65% (56.5 - 73.5)



Comparison

(Late onset vs. Classic onset BD)

Age at onset	50-70	20-39	p value
Demographic features			
Sex ratio (M/F)*	63/57 1.10	2962/2111 1.40	0.20
Disease duration†	7.7 7.4	8.7 16.4	0.51
Follow-up time†	3.9 5.8	2.9 15.6	0.49
Referral delay†	3.8 3.6	5.8 6.3	<0.0006
Familial BD*	4/63 6.3%	201/3380 5.9	0.89
Familial aphthosis*	18/63 28.6%	1575/3380 46.6	<0.005
Presenting manifestations‡			
Oral ulcer	89 74.2	4270 84.2	<0.004
Genital ulcer	17 14.2	543 10.7	0.23
Ocular lesions	22 18.3	391 7.7	<0.00003
Joint manifestations	2 1.7	231 4.6	0.08
Others	8 6.7	387 7.6	0.57
Major manifestations‡			
Oral ulcer	110 91.7	4957 97.7	<0.00001
Genital ulcer	57 47.5	3358 66.2	0.00002
Skin lesions	67 55.8	3222 63.5	0.08
Pseudofolliculitis	50 41.7	2612 51.5	<0.04
Erythema nodosum	22 18.3	1240 24.4	0.12
Ocular lesions	78 65.0	2790 55.0	<0.03
Anterior uveitis	60 50.0	2030 40.0	<0.03
Posterior uveitis	64 53.3	2326 45.9	0.10
Panuveitis	25 20.8	515 10.2	<0.0002
Retinal vasculitis	35 29.2	1740 34.3	0.24
Panophthalmitis	25 20.8	1183 23.3	0.52
Minor manifestations‡			
Joint manifestations	33 27.5	1979 39.0	0.01
Arthralgia	13 10.8	963 19.0	<0.03
Vascular involvement	15 12.5	493 9.7	0.31
Venous	15 12.5	472 9.3	0.24
Arterial	0 0	45 0.9	0.12
CNS involvement	2 1.7	190 3.7	0.15
Gastrointestinal involvement	8 6.7	329 6.5	0.91
Epididymitis (men)	2/63 3.2	229/2962 7.7	0.11
Laboratory findings‡			
Positive pathergy test	58/117 49.6	2606/4977 52.4	0.55
High ESR†	55/115 47.8	2563/4826 53.1	0.26
Positive HLA-B5/51	67/112 59.8	2725/4894 55.7	0.38
Positive HLA-B27	13/110 11.8	356/4652 7.7	0.11
Abnormal urine	18/114 15.8	701/4793 14.6	0.73
Positive VDRL/RPR	2/109 1.8	47/4611 1.0	0.72

* Number and ratio † SD: Mean and standard deviation ‡ Number and percentage

Result Summary

Iranian patients with late-onset BD in comparison to those with classic-onset

- Showed no significant difference in any demographic features except for lower referral delay time
- As the first presentation, oral aphthosis rate was lower but ocular lesions were seen higher
- During the disease course, oral and genital ulcers and pseudofolliculitis were lower
- Despite higher prevalence of ocular lesions, severe forms (retinitis, panophthalmitis) were less seen
- Among the minor manifestations, only articular involvement showed lower frequency
- Laboratory tests showed no statistically significant difference between the two groups