

Video Capillaroscopic Findings in Patients with Psoriatic Arthritis: Preliminary Data

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Background and Aims: Nailfold capillaroscopy (NC) is a non-invasive, easily applicable procedure to assess in vivo microcirculation. Even if in Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) there is a non-specific pattern at the NC, it was often found a reduction in loop length (dwarf loops) unlike rheumatoid arthritis (elongated capillaries).

Materials and Methods: We consecutively enrolled 18 outpatients (16 F and 2 M) with PsA fulfilling CASPAR classification criteria. 18 age- and sex-matched controls were selected. NVC was conducted using the VideoCap 3.0 workstation (DS Medica, Milan, Italy) by an experienced videocapillaroscopist.

Results: A significantly higher number of tortuous capillaries and a reduction in loop length (dwarf loops) was observed in the PsA group ($p < 0.01$) compared to the control group. Additionally, trends were noted for lower capillary density and a higher number of dilated capillaries in the PsA group.

Discussion: Even if NC cannot be considered of diagnostic value in routine clinical practice to distinguish pts with psoriatic arthritis from healthy controls, the preliminary data of our study demonstrate that some alterations in the microcirculation could be more frequent in these patients, representing a picture which is, if not diagnostic, at least suggestive of this pathology.

References

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