

Prevalence of Lupus Nephritis in Argentina

Grupo de Estudio de Lupus de la Sociedad Argentina De Reumatología.

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Introduction

Approximately 35% of adults with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) have clinical evidence of nephritis (NL) at the time of diagnosis, with an estimated total of 50–60% developing nephritis during the first 10 years of disease. The prevalence of NL is significantly higher in African Americans and Hispanics than in whites, and is higher in men than in women. *Hahn B et al. Arthritis Care & Research Vol. 64, No. 6, June 2012, pp 797–808*

GESAR SLE is a multicenter study group consisting of 24 Centers from Argentina (La Plata, Buenos Aires, San Martín (Prov Bs As), Bahia Blanca, Tucumán, Mendoza, Córdoba, Rosario, Paraná, Libertador San Martín (ER) and Bariloche).

Objectives

Objective: To analyze the prevalence of Lupus Nephritis (LN), the predominant histological class as well as the demographics, clinics, serological and cumulative damage associated.

Methods

659 SLE patients (ACR82/97) were enrolled consecutively between February and December 2012.

LN was defined according to ACR82 criteria.

Clinical data from cases with LN were compared with those without LN.

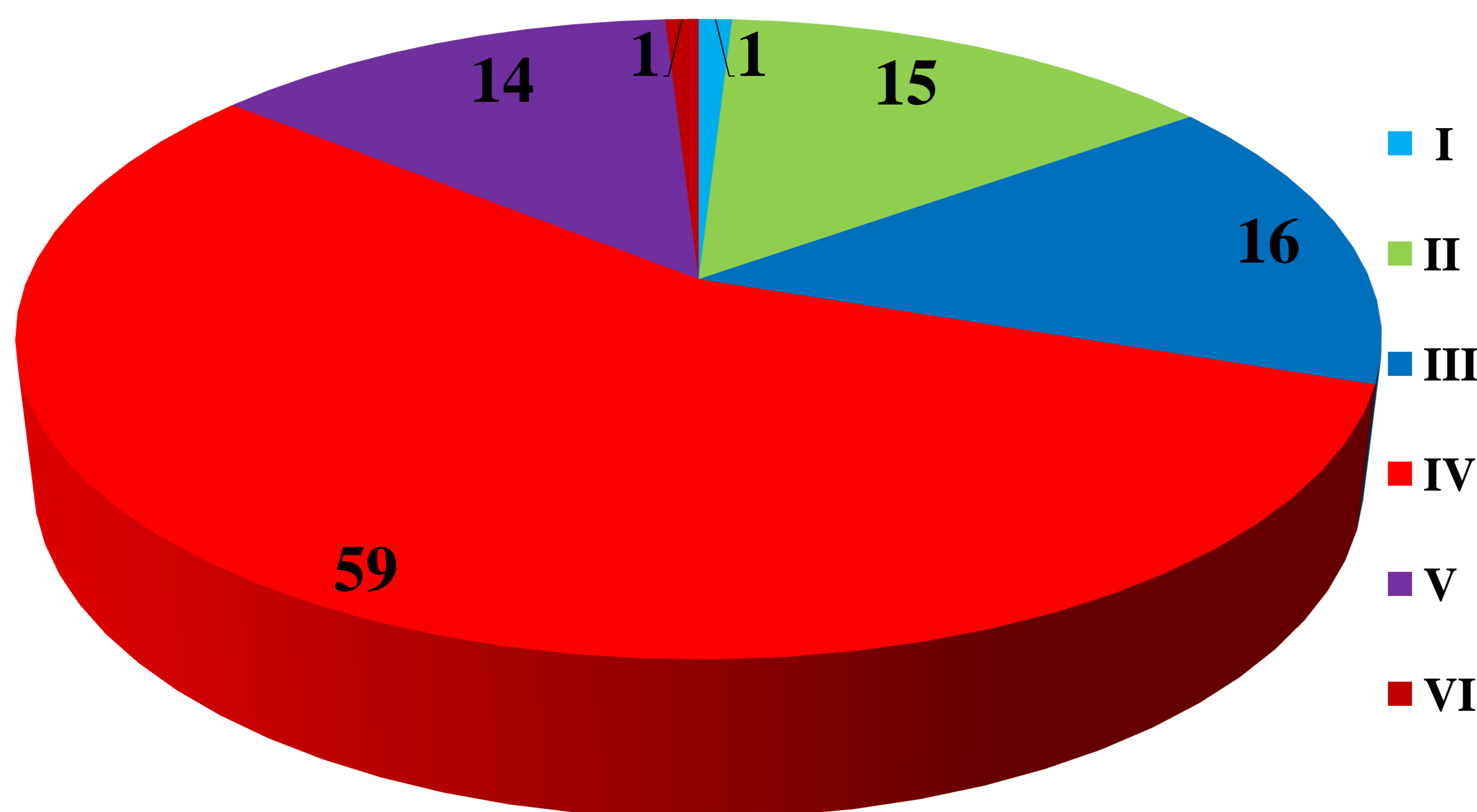
In the analysis of qualitative variables, the measures for strength of association were obtained using the odds ratio and 95% CI, chi-squared test or Fisher's exact test. Student's t-test was applied for quantitative variables.



Results

323/659 (49%) had current or past LN.
 99/323 (30%) had active proteinuria.
 19/323 (6%) patients presented end stage renal disease.
 Renal biopsy was obtained in 267/323 (82.6%) cases.
 The histological classes were:
 Class I: 3 patients (1.12%), class II: 39 (14.6%), III: 43 (16%), IV: 157 (59%), V: 38 (14%), VI: 2 (0.75%).
 The main associations were: class III-V: 2, IV-V: 9 cases.

Renal Histological Class



	NL +	NL -	p	OR	CI
Age at SLE diagnose	27±10	33±13	3.96		
Female	85%	89%	0.13	0.70	0.43-1.15
Urban/rural residency	94 / 5.6%	97 / 2%	0.024	0.37	0.13-0.96
SLE evolution	115±100	88±81	0.0001		
ACR82/97 Criteria	7±1.5	5±1.3	7.89		
SLEDAI	7±9	4±5	1.26		
SLICC	2±2.66	1.34	8.86		
Malar rash	70%	62%	0.042	1.40	1.00-1.97
Arthritis	78%	82%	0.25	0.80	0.54-1.20
Serositis	37%	25.1%)	0.001	1.70	1.20-2.46
CNS	12.4%	7.4%	0.033	1.76	1.01-3.10
Cataract	20%	8%	0.029	1.73	1.02-2.98
dsDNA	72%	49%	<0.001	2.68	1.89-3.78
SM	30%	31%	0.675	0.93	0.64-1.34

Conclusions

- ✓ In a population of 659 consecutive SLE patients, 49% presented active or past Lupus Nephritis.
- ✓ They had longer evolution of the disease.
- ✓ Urban residency seemed to have a protective rol for developing LN.
- ✓ LN patients had more frequently serositis, CNS compromise and positive anti-dsDNA antibodies.
- ✓ The main histological class was IV (59%).