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GASTROINTESTINAL MANIFESTATIONS OF RHEUMATOLOGICAL DISEASES

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Gastrointestinal symptoms are common in patients with rheumatic diseases and can be classified as gastrointestinal damage from the rheumatic disease itself, adverse events caused by pharmacotherapies, and gastrointestinal tract infections following immunosuppressive treatments. The manifestations of the gastrointestinal symptoms are depending on the involved organ, as well as the base disease. Even if the majority of gastrointestinal symptoms are uncommon they can lead to serious injuries. Objective of the study was the research of the gastrointestinal system affections in patients with rheumatic diseases, analysis of the frequency of major changes, and assessment of their severity degree in conformity with the rheumatic disease.

A descriptive study was conducted, retrospectively on a group of 60 patients diagnosed with rheumatic diseases in the Republican Clinical Hospital "Timofei Moşneaga", Chişinău. All subjects met the American College of Rheumatology diagnostic criteria on rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, systemic sclerosis. Patients were divided into 3 groups. I-st. group-20 patients with RA; II-nd. group-20 patients with SLE; III-rd. group-20 patients with SyS diffuse form.

It has been observed that the affection of the gastrointestinal system was present in 95% of patients with SyS, in 65% with SLE, not in all cases is registered the presence of the clinical symptoms, they are asymptomatic. Gastrointestinal manifestations of RA are rare (45%), some gastrointestinal processes are directly related to RA, meanwhile, others can be sequelae of treatment or caused by concomitant autoimmune diseases (autoimmune hepatitis - 4 patients (20%)).

Gastrointestinal system affection occurs in rheumatic diseases as a result of the treatment with SMARD/DMARD, and as a manifestation of the underlying disease. Gastrointestinal manifestations in rheumatic diseases are not rare, so clinicians should be aware of their existence and the fact that they may occur concomitantly or serially. It is also necessary for both rheumatologists and gastroenterologists to cooperate with each other and proceed with precise management of these disorders. Preventing complications from the gastrointestinal system can be done through adequate management and investigation of the patient.