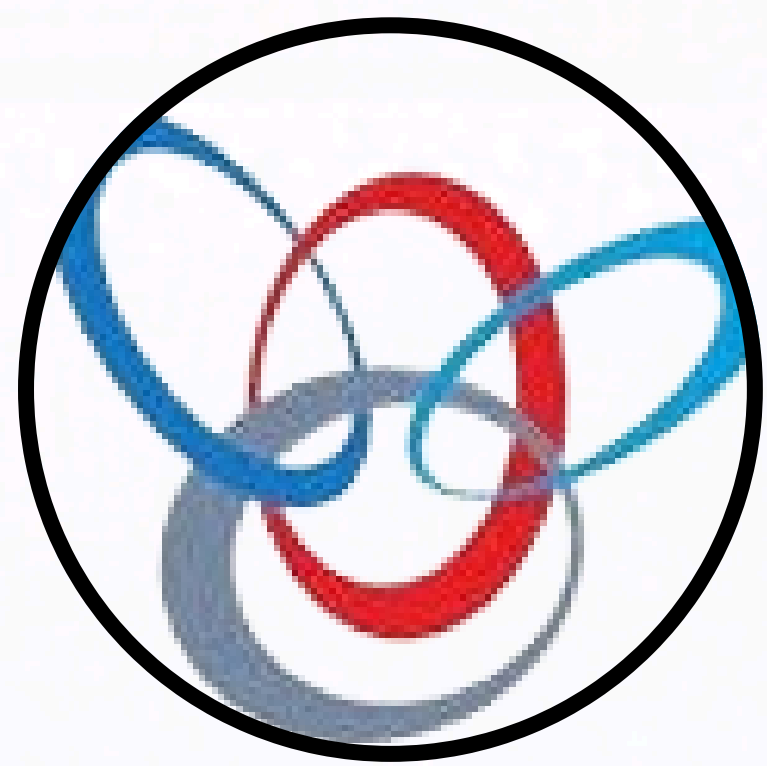


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Incidence And Risk Factors Of Herpes Zoster Infection In Pediatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

OBJECTIVES

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic multisystem autoimmune disease with highly heterogeneous clinical manifestations and severity. Herpes zoster (HZ) is a viral disease caused by reactivation of varicella-zoster virus which remains dormant in the dorsal root sensory ganglia after a previous varicella infection. There is limited information on the association between HZ and childhood-onset SLE (cSLE). This study aimed to determine the risk factors for HZ in patients diagnosed with cSLE.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Single-center retrospective cohort study which included all patients less than 19 years old with SLE at a tertiary hospital in the Philippines.

RESULTS

A total of 388 patients were included in the study. The prevalence of HZ was 15.72%, with an incidence rate of 38.40 per 100 person-years. The most common location of the HZ was the upper extremities (18.03%). The median SLEDAI at HZ diagnosis was 4, 16.39% had recurrent HZ, 11.48% had superimposed bacterial infection, and more than two-thirds were treated with acyclovir or valacyclovir (88.52%). The proportion of participants with renal manifestations was significantly higher among those with HZ (54.10% vs. 40.37%). Glucocorticoid dosage ≥ 5 mg, azathioprine, and intravenous cyclophosphamide significantly predict the likelihood of developing HZ. In particular, IV cyclophosphamide, azathioprine, and glucocorticoid doses of ≥ 5 mg increased the risk for the development of HZ by 1.61 ($p=0.048$), 2.07 ($p=0.009$), and 10.20 ($p=0.001$) times, respectively.

CONCLUSION

The prevalence and incidence of HZ in cSLE patients are 15.72% and 38.40 per 100 person-years, respectively. The risk factors identified for HZ among cSLE patients were lymphopenia, lupus nephritis, and immunosuppressive agents. Glucocorticoid dosage ≥ 5 mg, azathioprine, and intravenous cyclophosphamide significantly predict the likelihood of developing HZ.

Biography

Dr. Adrienne Katrin M. Guiang-Valerio is a physician and academic affiliated with the University of Santo Tomas Hospital and the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery in Manila, Philippines. She is dedicated to advancing clinical practice, medical education, and research, with a particular interest in improving patient care through evidence-based medicine and interdisciplinary collaboration.