

Early disease onset in SLE.

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

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Introduction

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic, multiorgan, autoimmune disease that is more common in women of reproductive age, but occurs in people of all ages. Kidney involvement and damage has been reported to have a higher prevalence in patients with SLE with disease onset during childhood. *Ryan Webb et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2011;70:151–156.*

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

To explore the prevalence of early- onset Lupus and the relationship with the diverse manifestations of the disease.

Methods

659 patients were enrolled in a consecutive way between February and December 2012.

Age of disease onset was determined as the age at which the fourth ACR SLE criterion was met.

Early onset was defined when disease was diagnosed before the age of 18.

Clinical manifestations were compared with patients with adult-onset disease (≥ 18 years).

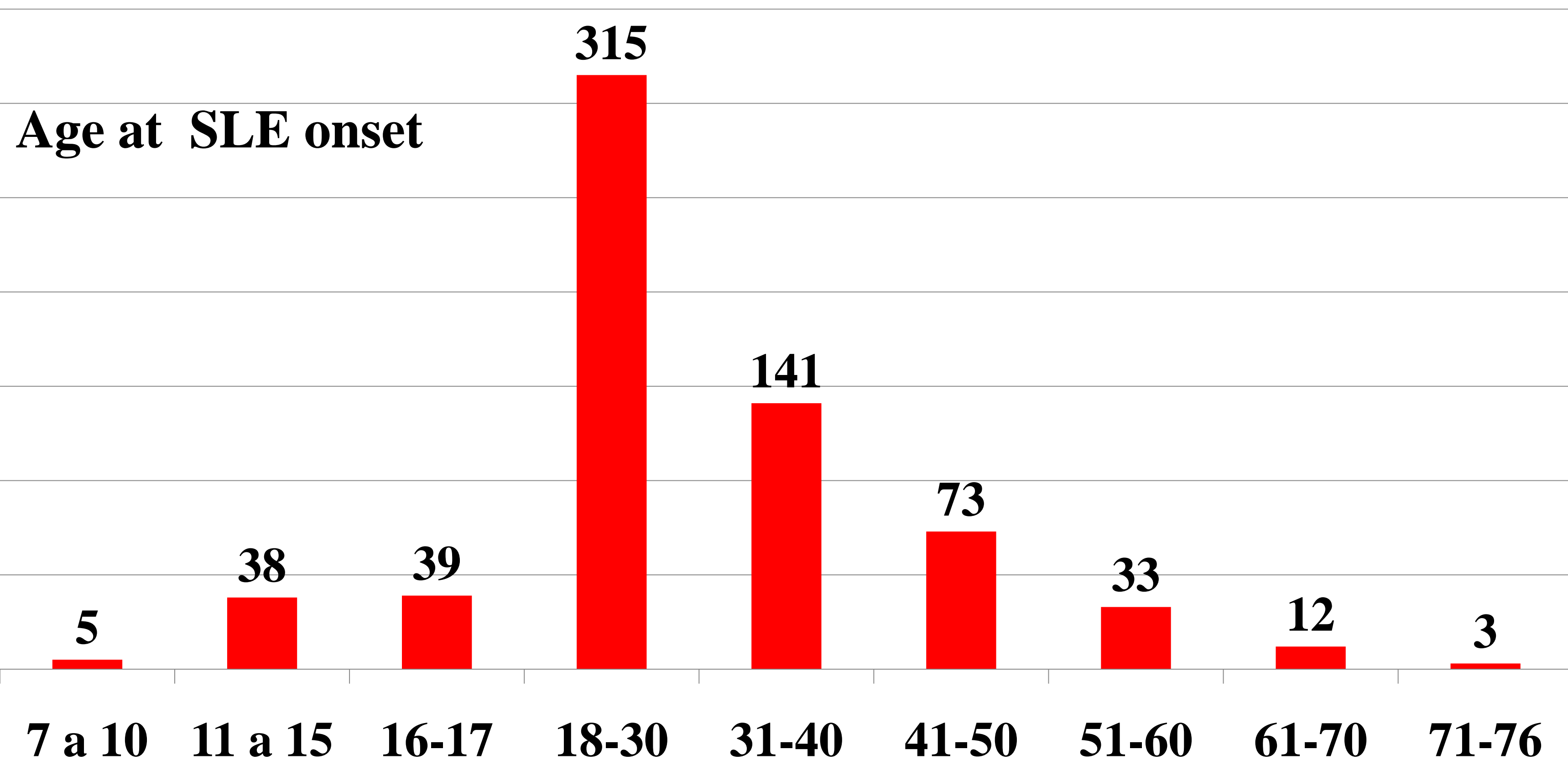
In the analysis of qualitative variables, the measures for strength of association were obtained using the odds ratio and 95% CI, chi-squared test or Fisher's exact test.

Student's t-test was applied for quantitative variables.



Results

- 82/659 (12,44%) met the criteria for early –onset SLE.
- 90% female vs. 87%, OR: 1.38, P=0.408, CI: 0.63-3.45).
- Mean age at SLE diagnose 15.2 years (7-17) vs. 32.11 (18-76).
- Mean SLE evolution: 134.86 months vs. 96.92 months, p=0.00034
- The median SLE criteria classification 7 vs. 6 (p=0.016).
- The median SLEDAI score 2 (0-36) vs. 2 (0-73)(p=0.955).
- SLEDAI ≥ 12 18% vs. 8.5%, p=0.005, OR: 2.41, CI: 1-19-4.66
- The mean SLICC/ACR index 1.15 (0-8) vs. 1.03 (0-9) (p=0.57).



	<18: 82	≥ 18 : 577			
	(%)	(%)	p	OR	CI
Malar rash	74	65	0.104	1.54	0.89-2.74
Discoid rash	11	15.6	0.272	0.67	0.28-1.40
Photosensitivity	68	67	0.801	1.07	0.63-1.83
Oral ulcers	46	45	0.827	1.05	0.64-1.72
Arthritis	83	80	0.496	1.24	0.66-2.46
Serositis	35	30.5	0.373	1.25	0.74-2.07
Nephritis	62	47	0.010	1.84	1.12-3.07
Active Proteinuria	22	14	0.075	1.67	0.89-3.03
GN IV	34	123	0.0001	2.61	1.56-4.34
CNS	17	8.83	0.019	2.12	1.03-4.15
Hematological	51	55	0.566	0.87	0.53-1.43
APS	12	10	0.550	1.24	0.54-2.59
Cataract	18	10	0.022	2.04	1.01-3.90
Osteonecrosis	10	5	0.086	1.97	0.75-4.61
dsDNA	65	56	0.154	1.42	0.86-2.38
SM	35	30	0.412	1.26	0.69-2.25
RNP	37%	29%	0.167	1.50	0.80-2.74

Conclusions

- ✓ 12.4% of patients were early-onset Lupus patients.
- ✓ The mean age at onset was 15 years (7-17).
- ✓ Compared with patients with adult-onset disease they had longer evolution of disease.
- ✓ They represent a more severe phenotype of the disease; characterized by higher ACR82 criteria score, more frequent severe active disease, renal compromise and GN class IV as well as CNS disease.
- ✓ No difference was shown regarding damage score, but cataracts was more frequent in the early onset group.