

Biennial report

Study Groups

Title of the study group: EULAR Hemochromatosis arthropathy Study Group

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Summary of last year's activities

A multinational group, supported and sponsored by the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR), is developing classification criteria for the arthropathy seen in people who have genetic haemochromatosis, hereafter called 'haemochromatosis arthropathy' (HA).

A task force has been assembled of 37 members (health care professionals and patients) from 11 countries (see Appendix 1).

By process of systematic literature review, expert opinion and Delphi voting, 15 candidate classification criteria items have been agreed.

The effectiveness of these 15 items in classifying people with HA, as opposed to disease mimics, will be assessed in three derivation cohorts of patients attending the secondary care rheumatology clinics of the task force members (see Appendix 1).

The derivation cohorts are comprised of patients with two subtypes of HA and disease mimics (see Appendix 2).

The 15 candidate classification criteria items (see Appendix 3) are features routinely collected in clinical practice, including aspects of the history, presence and severity of fatigue, clinical examination findings, X-ray features of symptomatic and clinically abnormal joints and ultrasound assessment of joints.

Data will be recorded on web based case report forms, anonymised with respect to patient identifiers.

Analysis of the data recorded in the derivation cohorts will be performed by a biostatistician based at St George's, University of London, UK.