

Palliative Care & Clinical Trials and Pharmacovigilance

September 23-24, 2019 | Prague, Czech Republic

Do hand functions effect in male patients with ankylosing spondylitis?

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Introduction and Aim: Proximal joints, especially hip and shoulder joint dysfunction, are seen in patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS). While functional disorders for these joints are mentioned in the literature, studies on hand functions are limited. A limited number of studies have examined the grip strength in AS patients; but the results of these studies are also contradictory. According to our knowledge, there were no studies investigating hand dexterity in AS patients. The aim of this study was to investigate hand functions in male patients with AS.

Materials and Methods: A total of 48 participants were included in the study, 24 of whom were male patients (age: 40.08 ± 11.09 year, body mass index: 26.39±4.19kg/m²) diagnosed with AS according to the Modified New York criteria and 24 of whom were healthy adults (age: 40.04 ± 12.69 year, body mass index: 28.08 ± 3.74 kg/m²). The grip strength of the participants was assessed by a hydraulic hand dynamometer; the hand dexterity was assessed by a nine-hole peg test (9-HPT). Student's T Test and Mann-Whitney U Test were used for statistical analysis.

Results: Grip strength of male patients with AS decreased with respect to healthy male both on the dominant side (p: 0,002) and on the non-dominant side (p: 0,004). Also, hand dexterity was similar in both the dominant side (p: 0,151) and the non-dominant side (p: 0,564).

Discussion and Conclusion: As a result of the study, it was determined that while the grip strength was decrease in AS patients compared to healthy men, the hand dexterity did not change. While intrinsic muscle activity is more active in 9-HPT, extrinsic muscle activity is more active in grip strength. We think that the decrease in grip strength may be due to a decrease in especially upper extremity extrinsic muscle strength in patients with AS

Speaker Biography

Songül Baglan Yentur continues her PhD from Gazi University, Turkey and has completed master programme from the same university. She is a research assistant at Gazi University, Turkey.

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