

Monitoring HbA1c and plasma glucose in patients with GCA/PMR - An Audit in Beaumont Hospital

O'Farrell R, Almadhi G, Ali I, McCarthy E, Howard D
Department of Rheumatology, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9



RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Polymyalgia rheumatica and Giant cell arteritis are commonly treated with glucocorticoid therapy. The long-term use of glucocorticoid therapy is associated with long-term risk such as the development of diabetes mellitus¹. EULAR/ACR recommendations address the importance of the determination of comorbidities in patients being treated for PMR and GCA, particularly screening for complications such as diabetes and glucose intolerance².

1.2 Aim

We conducted an audit to assess if our rheumatology service is in concordance with EULAR recommendations to determine the prevalence of diabetes, plasma glucose and dyslipidemia in our patient cohort with Giant Cell Arteritis and PMR.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Databases

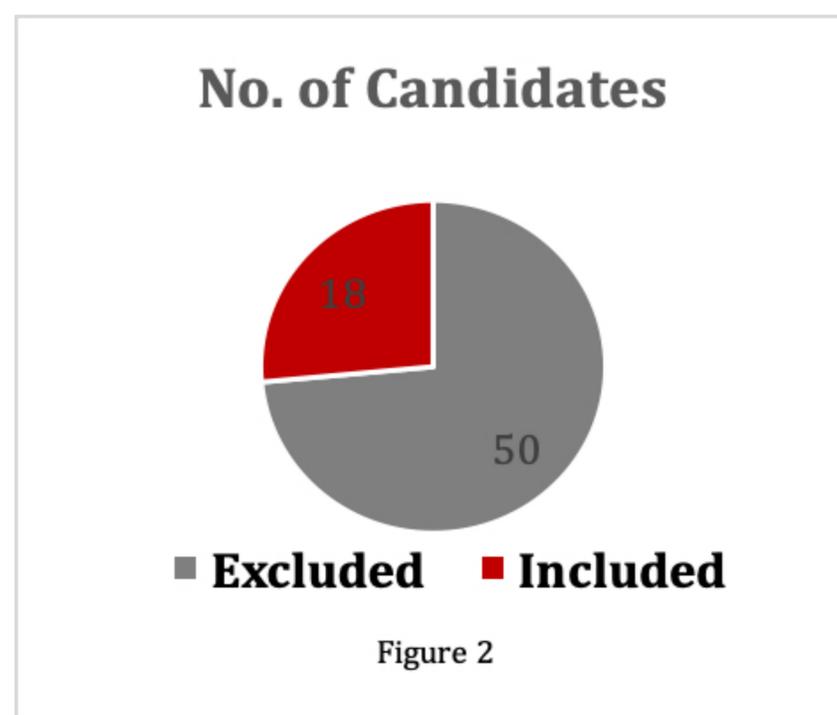
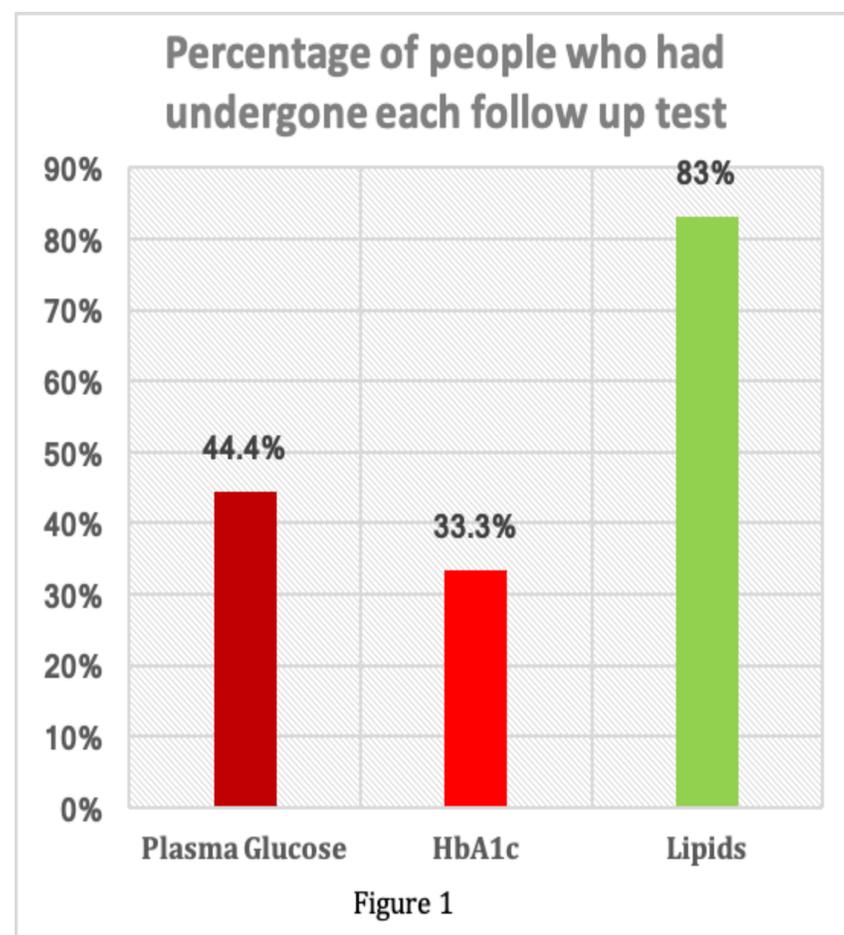
Due to difficulty identifying candidates with PMR or GCA, we used the 4S Dawn Database to extract all patients on Tocilizumab therapy during the period Oct2010 - July 2021. Patients with PMR or GCA were extracted from this database. We used PIPE laboratory database to extract blood results for this period.

3. Results

68 candidates were found to be on tocilizumab, 18 of them were included in the study as patients with PMR or GCA (figure 2). Following diagnosis, 44.4% underwent Hb1AC testing, 33.3% underwent plasma glucose testing, and 83% of patients underwent lipids monitoring (figure 1).

4. Conclusion

Surveillance of plasma glucose and HbA1c is suboptimal in our centre. Quality improvement regarding HB1AC and plasma glucose testing is required due to the high incidence of glucose intolerance and diabetes in this patient group. The key message is to highlight the need for monitoring and routine surveillance at each clinic visit.



5. References

1. Association between glucocorticoid therapy and incidence of diabetes mellitus in polymyalgiarheumatica and giant cell arteritis: a systematic review and meta-analysis, Lana Yin Hui Lai, Emma Harris, Robert M West, and Sarah Louise Mackie, 2017.
2. 2015 European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)/American College of Rheumatology (ACR) recommendations for the management of PMR².