GENDER DIFFERENCES IN BEHCET'S DISEASE : A SINGLE EXPERIENCE OF 399 CASES

F.DAKIR, J. YOUSFI, M. ZAHLANE, L. BENJILIALI, L. ESSAADOUNI

Service de médecine interne, CHU Mohammed VI

Marrakech – Morocco

Introduction

Behcet's disease is a multisystem disorder that can affect all organs, including the skin, mucous membranes, eye, joints, brain and blood vessels.. This disease is very common in the Mediterranean basin and mainly affects young men.

Objective

To compare the clinical profiles of the disease in male and female patients.

Material and methods

This is 13 years (January 2010 to December 2023) retrospective study focusing on patients with Behcet's disease compared according to sex.

Results

There were 399 cases, 210 men (52%) and 189 women (48%). The mean age was 37 ± 25 years for men and 42 ± 22 years for women.

Skin involvement was observed in 100% of our patients. Aphthosis was found in 100% of men and women, and it was bipolar in 86% versus 70% of cases respectively. Papulopostular was present in 46% of men and 30% of women.
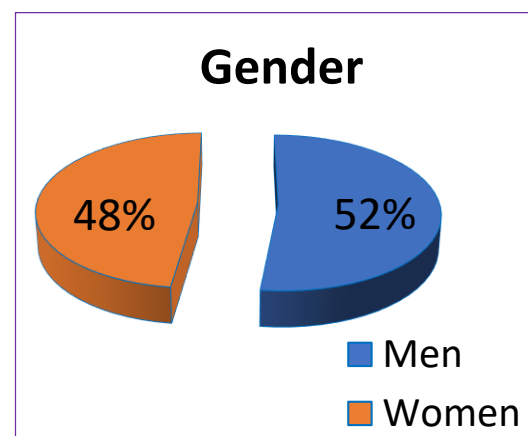
Joint involvement was noted in 25 men with a predominance for large joints and in 60 women.

75 men had vascular Behçet, compared to 56 women (35% versus 29%). Deep vein thrombosis was the main vascular involvement, and was noted in 73 patients. Arterial involvement was present in 18 patients, 15 of whom were men.

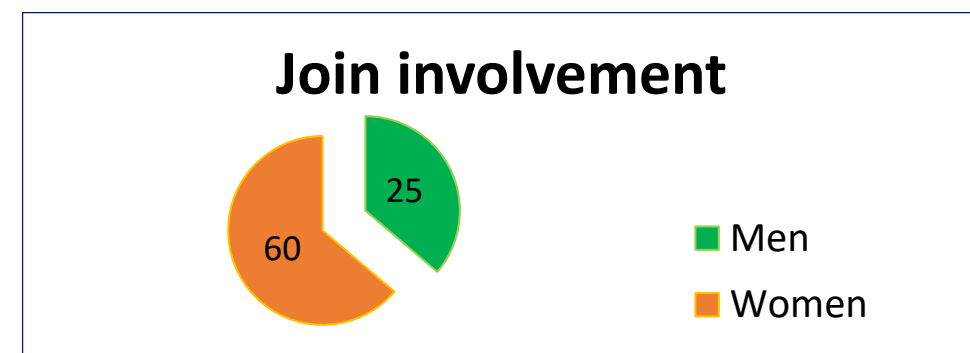Ocular involvement was noted in 60 men and 32 women. Retinal vasculitis was noted in 33 men and 9 women.

Neurological damage was more frequent in men without significant difference (55.9% versus 44%). The main manifestation of neuro-Behçet was headaches with a female predominance.

Treatment was based on colchicine in all patients. High-dose corticosteroid therapy; immunosuppressants and biologics were indicated for more severe damage.
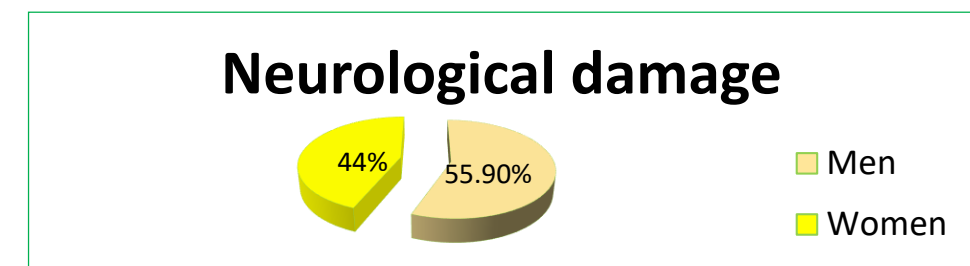
Gender

48% Women — 52% Men

	Mean age (years)
Men	37±25
Women	42±22

	Men	Women
Aphtose		100 %
• Bipolaire		86 %
Papulopustulor	46%	30%

Join involvement

25 Men — 60 Women

	Men	Women
Vascular Behcet	75	56

Neurological damage

44% Women — 55.90% Men

	Men	Women
Ocular involvement	60	32

Conclusion

Our study showed that vascular and ocular involvement were significantly higher in men, wheres joint involvement and headache were more frequent in women.