

Clinical and Epidemiological Characteristics of Adamantiades-Behçet Disease: A Comparative Study of German and Moroccan Patients

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Introduction

This study compares the clinical features and epidemiology of Adamantiades-Behçet Disease (ABD) in German and Moroccan cohorts. We analyzed demographic data, the frequency of clinical manifestations, familial occurrence, and potential prognostic indicators.

Method

The German cohort included 355 patients of German descent, with data collected via standardized forms from 32 clinics and practices. The Moroccan cohort consisted of 111 patients, documented by the end of 2023.

Discussion

In the German cohort, oral aphthae (OA) were the most common symptom (98.1%), followed by genital ulcers (GU, 64.8%) and cutaneous lesions (CL, 64.4%). Ocular manifestations were observed in 39.1% of patients. Arthritis (AR) was reported in 56.1%, and neurological involvement in 20.8%, with 11.9% having CNS involvement. Familial occurrence (FO) was low in 3.7%. In the Moroccan cohort, OA were the most common symptom (99.1%), followed by CL (90.1%), especially folliculitis (87.4%). Severe ocular manifestations were more frequent (66.7%), including hypopyon-iritis and retinitis. GU were observed in 59.5%. Typical AR was confirmed in 29.7%, though joint pain was reported in 75.7%. NI was suspected in 73%, primarily as headache; CNS involvement was confirmed in 24.3%.

Conclusion

The comparison of German and Moroccan ABD cohorts shows both similarities and differences in disease presentation. OA were nearly always present (98.1% in Germans, 99.1% in Moroccans). Moroccans had higher ocular manifestations (66.7% vs. 39.1%), FO (35.1% vs. 3.7%), CNS involvement (24.3% vs. 11.9%), and CL (90.1% vs. 64.4%), with statistic significance. These findings highlight the importance of ethnic and genetic factors in ABD management and suggest tailored treatment strategies based on patient demographics.

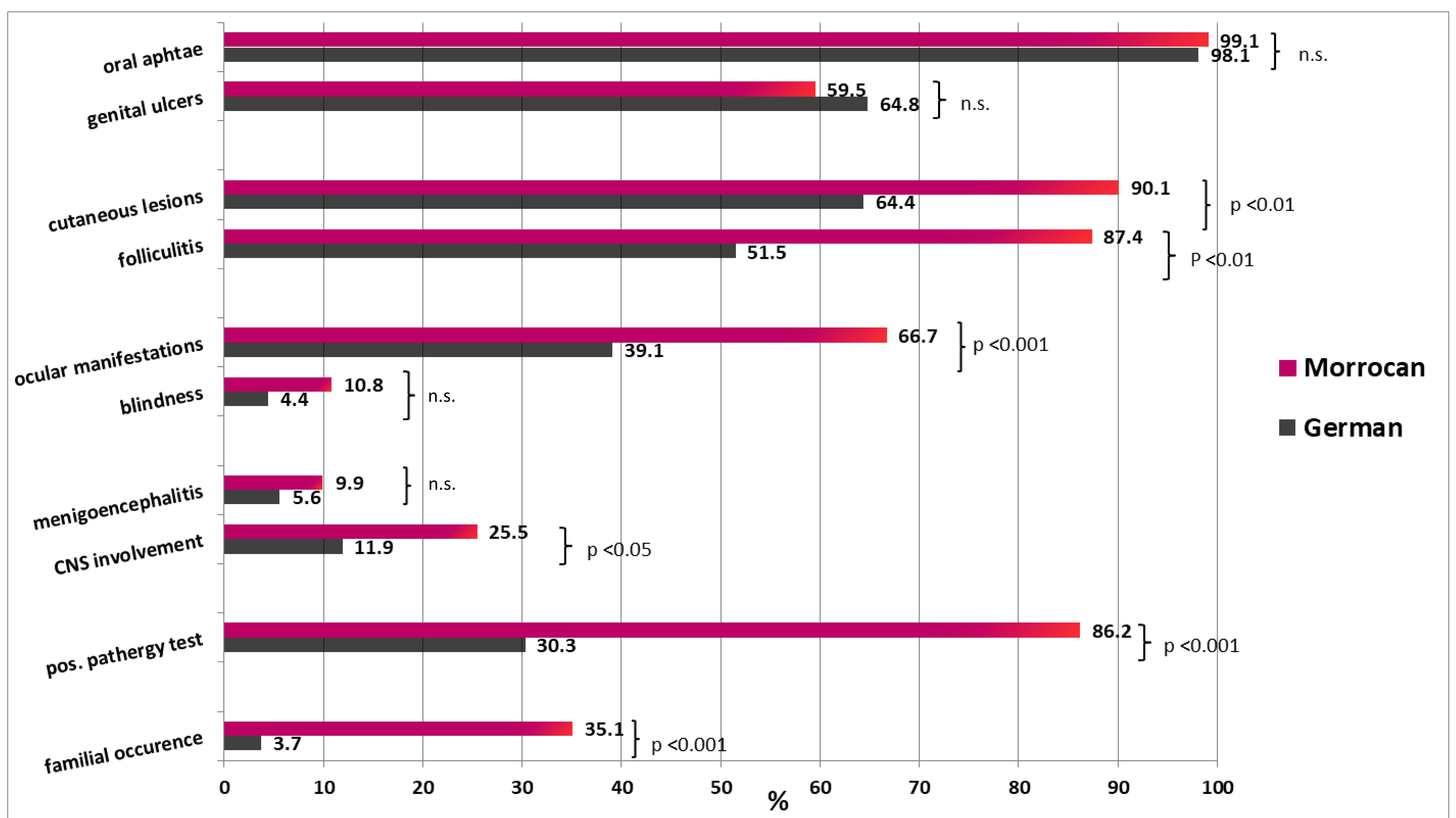


Figure 1: Frequencies of symptoms and clinical features in Moroccan and German ABD patients, with statistical significance indicated