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Abstract

Objective: To show clinical subsets of patients with IBM by an unsupervised hierarchical analysis using clinical variables.

Background: The predominance of dysphagia as well as the infrequent muscle involvement in patients with IBM caused us to question the homogeneity of the disease.

Design/Methods: Forty-five clinico-pathological defined IBM patients were included. Standard 3-T MRI examinations for the thigh or upper arms were conducted during diagnosis. The intramuscular adipose tissue (IntraMAT) of fatty infiltration on T1-weighted MR images and intramuscular edema-like changes (IntraMEC) on STIR images were evaluated.

Results: The unsupervised hierarchical analysis showed three clusters within the patients. One subgroup (n = 18; proximal arm type) corresponded to patients with higher IntraMAT content of proximal arm muscles; supraspinatus ($32.7 \pm 4.3\%$, $p < 0.01$), deltoid ($28.5 \pm 4.4\%$, $p < 0.01$), infraspinatus ($28.6 \pm 3.9\%$, $p < 0.001$), subscapularis ($37.4 \pm 4.7\%$, $p < 0.01$), biceps ($31.0 \pm 3.5\%$, $p < 0.001$), and triceps ($47.8 \pm 5.1\%$, $p < 0.001$). The second subgroup (n = 11; upper leg type) corresponded to patients involving IntraMAT content mainly in quadriceps muscles. The third subgroup (n = 16; dysphagic type) corresponded to patients with dysphagia having cricopharyngeal bar (100%, $p < 0.001$), high SDQ scores (16.8 ± 2.3 , $p < 0.001$), less IntraMAT content of rectus femoris ($1.4 \pm 0.7\%$, $p < 0.01$), vastus lateralis ($23.5 \pm 6.6\%$, $p < 0.05$), vastus intermedius ($13.9 \pm 4.7\%$, $p < 0.05$), vastus medialis

($9.5 \pm 3.7\%$, $p < 0.01$), supraspinatus ($12.4 \pm 3.5\%$, $p < 0.01$), deltoid ($5.5 \pm 1.4\%$, $p < 0.001$), infraspinatus ($7.6 \pm 2.1\%$, $p < 0.001$), subscapularis ($11.6 \pm 3.9\%$, $p < 0.01$), biceps ($6.6 \pm 1.8\%$, $p < 0.001$), and triceps ($13.1 \pm 3.0\%$, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: This study indicates the clinical subsets of IBM to expand the knowledge of the heterogeneity of the patients.

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