Presentations and pattern of organ involvement in SLE – An experience in a tertiary care hospital in Bangladesh

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Systemic Lupus Erythematosus is a *multisystem autoimmune disease* in which the immune system produces antibodies to cells within the body leading to widespread inflammation and tissue damage.

SLE can affect

- Joints
- Skin
- Brain
- Lungs
- Kidneys
- Blood vessels

OBJECTIVES

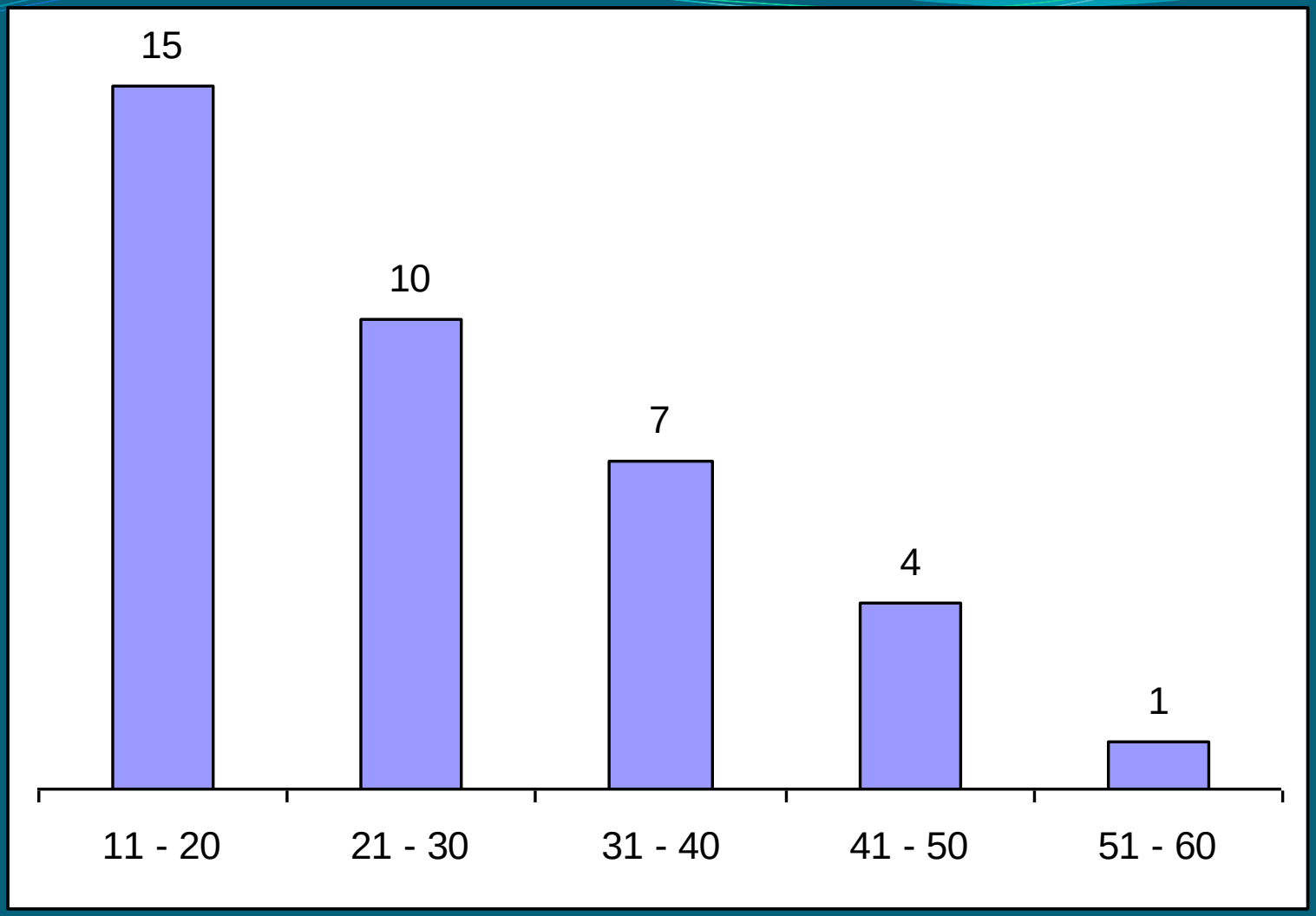
- To find out the pattern of clinical presentation
- To see the type of organ involvement
- SLE diseases activity index (DAI) during admission to the hospital.

Materials and Methods

- A retrospective study carried out in the department of medicine, ShSMCH.
- Study period – July 2007 to January 2010.
- Data from SLE register books of the Medicine Unit-2.

Results

Total number of patients	37
Male	4
Female	33
Female : Male	8:1



Age distribution

Most Frequently Occurring Features

- *Fever*
- *Multiple joint pain*
- *Oral Ulceration*
- *Photosensitivity*
- *Alopecia*
- *Malar rash*
- *Discoid rash*

Frequency of features found among the subjects (n=37)

Features	No of Pts	%
Fever	29	78.37
Multiple joint pain	28	75.67
Oral Ulceration	19	51.35
Alopecia	14	37.83
Photosensitivity	10	27
Malar rash	10	27
Discoid rash	6	16.1
Raynauds phenomena	9	24
Cutaneous rash--- vascular, macular, pustular	9	24
Bleeding manifestations- Hematemesis, Menorrhagia, gum bleeding and purpura	6	16.1

Frequency of features....

Features	No of Pt	%
Neurological feature –headache, seziure,	13	35
Other musculoskeletal features- myalgia, muscle weakness	15	40.54
Respiratory features- cough, chest pain, basal creps, Pl effusion	7	18.9
Others- cervical lympadenopathy, Jaundice	 1 1	 2.7 2.7

Organ Involvement

- *Renal* 14
- *Hematology* 7
- *CNS* 6
- *Cutaneous* 7
- *Cardiac* 6
- *Pulmonary* 6

Lupus Nephritis

Mode of presentation (n=37)

Features	**Number**
24 Hr. UTP ***> 0.5 gm***	***14 (37.83)***
Cast	9 (24.32)
RBC	5 (13.51)

Renal Biopsy

Total number of patients	14
Biopsy done	11
Failed	1

Histopathological classification	No. of patients
Class 1	0
Class 2	0
Class 3	1
Class 4	7
Class 5	2
Class 6	0

Immunological Abnormalities

Investigation	Frequency	%
ANA positive	30	81
Anti dsDNA	23	62.16
Low complement (c3,c4)level	8	21.62
Anti phospholipid antibody	1	2.7

Respiratory Involvement

Investigation	No of Pt	%
X-ray chest pleural effusion	3	8.1
Lupus pneumonitis	3	8.1
Pulmonary infiltrate	1	2.7

Cardiovascular Involvement

- *Myocarditis* *1*
- *Heart failure* *1*
- *Pericardial effussion* *4*

SLE DAI

- Calculated in 27 patients
  Range: 6-58

Limitations of the study

- This is a small study to reflect any conclusive comment.
- Further follow up study is on going.

Conclusion

- Most of the patients came in late stage with renal or CNS involvements.
- Multiple organ involvement is common.
- Awareness of the prevalence of SLE will lead to earlier diagnosis & better outcome.

Thank you