

**Conclusions:** This study suggests the potential symptomatic effectiveness of pCGS, when used in combination with conventional therapy in EHOA.

## OC21

### HEALTH ECONOMICS EVALUATION OF A HIGH AND LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT HYALURONIC ACID FORMULATION IN PATIENTS WITH KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS. ANALYSES FROM A RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL

O. Bruyere<sup>1</sup>, J.-Y. Reginster<sup>1</sup>, G. Honvo<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ULiège, Liege, Belgium

**Introduction:** In a recent randomized placebo controlled trial, a single intra-articular injection of a high and low molecular weight hyaluronic acid formulation (HA-HL) has been shown to be effective in providing a clinically relevant reduction in pain and functional limitation up to 24 weeks in subjects with painful knee osteoarthritis (OA). The objective of the current study is to assess the cost-effectiveness of HA-HL compared with placebo using individual patient data from this clinical trial in a Swiss health care perspective.

**Methods:** A total of 692 patients fulfilling the criteria to enter the trial were randomly allocated to HA-HL or placebo. Each patient received one intra-articular injection of HA-HL or placebo at baseline and was then followed-up for a total duration of 24 weeks with 5 follow-up visits (i.e. week 1, 6, 12, 18 and 24). The EQ-5D-5L 5-point verbal Likert scale was used to calculate the Health Utility Index and the related quality-adjusted life-years (QALY) using the area-under-the-curve (AUC) method. For the costs, price of HA-HL in Switzerland was used. The primary threshold for the incremental cost/effectiveness ratio (ICER) below which HA-HL was considered as cost effective was 91,540 Swiss franc (CHF) per QALY (i.e. 100,000\$ USD).

**Results:** No significant difference between the baseline characteristics of the HA-HL group and placebo group was observed. With a mean ICER of 27,212 CHF per QALY (95% CI 20,135 – 34,289), HA-HL was considered as cost-effective compared to placebo. Sensitivity analyses (e.g. using lower or upper limit prices or using other threshold values) gave similar results, i.e. ICER far below the threshold values of cost-effectiveness.

**Conclusion:** These results confirm the role of HA-HL as an efficient pharmacological modality in the management of OA.

## OC22

### LOWER LIMB MUSCLE STRENGTH AND MUSCLE MASS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH INCIDENT SYMPTOMATIC KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS: A LONGITUDINAL COHORT STUDY

N. Veronese<sup>1</sup>, S. Stefanac<sup>2</sup>, A. Koyanagi<sup>3</sup>, N. Al-Daghri<sup>4</sup>, S. Sabico<sup>4</sup>, C. Cooper<sup>5</sup>, R. Rizzoli<sup>6</sup>, J.-Y. Reginster<sup>7</sup>, M. Barbagallo<sup>1</sup>, G. Di Bella<sup>1</sup>, C. Mandalà<sup>1</sup>, L. Dominguez<sup>1</sup>, L. Smith<sup>8</sup>, S. Maggi<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy, <sup>2</sup>University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, <sup>3</sup>CIBERSAM, Barcelona, Spain, <sup>4</sup>King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, <sup>5</sup>University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom, <sup>6</sup>University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland, <sup>7</sup>University of Liege, Liege, Belgium, <sup>8</sup>Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, United Kingdom, <sup>9</sup>Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Padova, Italy

**Objective:** Recent literature suggests that sarcopenia, often represented by low lower limbs muscle mass and strength, can be considered a potential risk factor for knee osteoarthritis (OA), but the

available literature is still limited. We therefore aimed to investigate whether sarcopenia is associated with a higher risk of radiographic (ROA) and symptomatic knee OA (SxOA) in a large cohort of North American people in the context of the OA initiative.

**Material and Methods:** Sarcopenia at baseline was diagnosed in case of low skeletal muscle mass (i.e., lower skeletal mass index) and poor performance in the chair stands test. The outcomes of interest for this study included ROA (radiographical osteoarthritis) if a knee developed a Kellgren and Lawrence (KL) grade  $\geq 2$  at follow-up, and SxOA (symptomatic osteoarthritis) defined as new onset of a combination of painful knee OA.

**Results:** Altogether, 2,492 older participants (mean age: 68.4 years, 61.4% females) were included. At baseline, sarcopenia was present in 6.1% of the population. No significant difference in ROA prevalence was observed between those with and without sarcopenia ( $p = 0.76$ ), whilst people with sarcopenia reported a significant higher prevalence of SxOA ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Using a logistic regression analysis, adjusting for potential confounders at baseline and the diagnosis of sarcopenia during follow-up, sarcopenia was associated with a higher incidence of knee SxOA (odds ratio, OR = 2.29; 95%CI [confidence interval]: 1.42-3.71;  $p = 0.001$ ), but not knee ROA (OR = 1.48; 95%CI: 0.53-4.10;  $p = 0.45$ ).

**Conclusion:** Sarcopenia could be associated with a higher risk of negative knee OA outcomes, in particular symptomatic forms

## OC23

### DOES LOW MUSCLE STRENGTH MODIFY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL COMORBIDITIES AND MORTALITY? FINDINGS FROM THE HERTFORDSHIRE COHORT STUDY

L. D. Westbury<sup>1</sup>, F. Laskou<sup>1</sup>, E. M. Dennison<sup>1</sup>, C. Cooper<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Centre, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom

**Objective:** Ischemic heart disease (IHD), diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) have been individually related to increased mortality: here we report how mortality risks for these conditions differ when coexisting with low muscle strength in a population-based UK cohort study.

**Material and Methods:** Men ( $n = 1502$ ) and women ( $n = 1330$ ) from the Hertfordshire Cohort Study, aged 59-73 years at baseline, were analysed. Muscle strength was ascertained by grip dynamometry; COPD was defined as a forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1)/forced vital capacity (FVC) ratio of  $< 0.7$ ; diabetes was ascertained through self-report and via a 2-h fasted oral glucose tolerance test; and previous diagnosis of IHD was ascertained by self-report. Low grip strength was defined according to the Sarcopenia Definitions and Outcomes Consortium thresholds ( $< 35.5$  kg [men],  $< 20$  kg [women]). Deaths were recorded from baseline (1998-2004) until 31st December 2018. Associations between combinations of conditions and mortality were examined using Cox regression with adjustment for sex and age.

**Results:** Low grip strength, COPD, diabetes and IHD were each related to increased mortality risk ( $p < 0.001$ ). Having both low grip strength and COPD was related to greater mortality risk than having COPD only (hazard ratio (95% CI): 1.47 (1.11, 1.95),  $p = 0.006$ ); the same was the case for having low grip strength and IHD compared to IHD only (1.57 (1.05, 2.34),  $p = 0.027$ ). In contrast, mortality risk was not significantly greater for those with low grip strength and diabetes in comparison to having diabetes alone ( $p = 0.127$ ).

**Conclusion:** Weaker muscle strength in combination with COPD or IHD was related to greater mortality risk than simply having the individual conditions. However, differential results with individual comorbidities suggest that individual comorbidities impact mortality