

OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA IN SARCOIDOSIS AND IMPACT OF CPAP TREATMENT ON FATIGUE

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ABSTRACT. *Rationale:* An increased incidence of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) in sarcoidosis has been described in small sample size studies. Fatigue is common in sarcoidosis and OSA could be a relevant, treatable comorbidity. To date, the effect of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) on fatigue has never been assessed. *Objectives:* To investigate the prevalence of OSA in sarcoidosis, fatigue status and daytime sleepiness in patients of our center. To explore the effect of CPAP in fatigue and daytime sleepiness after 3 months using validated questionnaires. *Method:* Single group, one center, open-label prospective cohort study. *Measurements and main result:* We enrolled 68 patients and OSA was diagnosed in 60 (88.2%): 25 (36.8%) were mild while 35 (51.5%) were moderate-to-severe. 38 (55.9%) patients received CPAP but only 20 (30.9%) were compliant at 3-month evaluation. Questionnaires demonstrated fatigue in 34 (50%) and daytime sleepiness in 21 (30.9%). In multivariate regression analysis, Scadding stage and FAS behave as predictors of Apnea-Hypopnea Index (AHI) severity while sleepiness and steroids weren't associated. FAS score ($\Delta_{FAS} = 6.3$; $p = 0.001$) and ESS score ($\Delta_{ESS} = 2.8$; $p = 0.005$) improved after three months of CPAP. *Conclusions:* OSA is highly prevalent in patients affected by sarcoidosis. ESS questionnaire is not reliable for OSA screening and other pre-test probability tool should be evaluated in further studies. CPAP leads to a significant reduction of fatigue and daytime sleepiness at three-month. Further studies are needed to confirm the high prevalence of OSA in sarcoidosis and the positive role of CPAP in fatigue. (*Sarcoidosis Vasc Diffuse Lung Dis* 2020; 37 (2): 169-178)

KEY WORDS: Sarcoidosis; Sleep Apnea; CPAP

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INTRODUCTION

Sarcoidosis is a granulomatous disease characterized by a great heterogeneity in clinical presentation, in the disease course and therapeutic results. Pathogenesis is still unclear; exaggerated immune response to unidentified antigens is thought to be the key pathogenic mechanism¹. Sarcoidosis is a worldwide disease but prevalence is higher in the northern European and African-American populations². Involvement of lung parenchyma and thoracic lymphadenopathies are very common features³.

An increased incidence of Sleep-disordered Breathing (SDB) and Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) has been observed in patients affected by sarcoidosis though the pathogenesis is still unclear⁴.

OSA is a disorder of upper airways collapse during sleep time leading to oxygen desaturation, sleep fragmentation and hypercapnia⁵. Moreover, once the obstruction has taken place, an arousal from sleep is induced by a respiratory effort allowing hyperventilation to occur⁶. Thus, arousals prevent asphyxia during upper airway obstructions but can lead to cardiovascular activation and contribute to adverse events of sleep apneas. Such condition is common, and recent studies suggest a significant prevalence of moderate-to-severe disordered breathing in high-income countries⁷ of 49.7% in men and 23.4% in women⁸. Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) is defined by an Apnea-Hypopnea Index (AHI) more than five and the collapse leads to a fall of blood saturation during sleep linked to daytime sleepiness, and stroke^{9,10}. Patients with sleep apneas report excessive daytime sleepiness, non-restorative sleep and fatigue. Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) is the treatment of choice since the first publication in 1981¹¹ in moderate-to-severe OSA syndrome although mild diseases may be allocated to treatment.

The association between OSA and sarcoidosis is nowadays without a clear pathogenesis explanation. Upper airway collapsibility might play a key role in pathogenesis of OSA in Interstitial Lung Diseases. A restrictive pattern on pulmonary function test leads to an increased airway collapsibility due to the caudal traction on these structures¹². Also, a high Body Mass Index with deposition of fat around upper airways may enhance the collapsibility. More hypotheses have been proposed: sarcoid neuropathy, obesity due to steroids and upper airway resistance

secondary to airway disease^{4,13}. A higher OSA prevalence was found in subjects with lupus pernio and increased AHI was reported among patients with lung parenchymal involvement¹⁴. In addition to the OSA, sarcoidosis is frequently associated with fatigue, a state of physical and mental weariness¹⁵ as a consequence of inflammatory mediators¹⁶. Fatigue is common with 50-70% prevalence in patients affected by sarcoidosis¹⁷. Regardless of its underlying cause, fatigue has a great impact on the life of patients affected with sarcoidosis and questionnaires such as the Fatigue Assessment Scale (FAS) have been validated¹⁸ and used in clinical practice in order to assess the burden of such condition.

Up-to-date, poor data is available on the prevalence of OSA in Sarcoidosis and no data is neither available about the effect of obstructive sleep apnea treatment with CPAP device on sarcoidosis nor the effect on the fatigue state assessed with FAS questionnaire.

Therefore, we aimed to define the prevalence of OSA in patients from our Sarcoidosis Clinic and to explore the effects on fatigue due to the treatment of OSA with CPAP.

METHODS

The SARCOIDOSAS study is a single group, open labeled prospective cohort study conducted in Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli, IRCCS, Roma (Italy). The trial was approved by the Institutional Board Review (ID **2455**, approved on 05 April 2019; principal investigator: R. L.) and have been registered on ClinicalTrials.gov (SARCOIDOSAS number, **NCT03926832**, registered 10 April; principal investigator: M. PV). Patients affected by sarcoidosis older than 18 years to a maximum of 85 years were eligible in the Sarcoidosis Clinic of our institution: a reference, tertiary care center for rare interstitial lung diseases. All patient met ATS criteria¹ for diagnosis and had a histology-proven sarcoidosis. The exclusion criteria included: ongoing CPAP treatment or having a diagnosis of psychiatric disorders. We contacted (telephone / mail) the whole cohort of our Sarcoidosis Clinic (n = 122 patients) but only 84 (68.9%) gave back us a feedback after the contact. Contacted patients were addressed for a first eligibility evaluation and enrolled between April and May 2019. All participants provided informed

consent. We did not impose criteria to select patients with higher probability of diagnosing sleep apnea syndrome. Furthermore, patients with OSA diagnosis¹⁹ were allocated to treatment according to the latest American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM)²⁰: Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) therapy was started in all those with a moderate-to-severe OSA and in those with mild OSA with a documented symptoms of excessive daytime sleepiness or history of insomnia or hypertension/ischemic heart disease or history of stroke.

Baseline evaluation

After the initial screening of the entire cohort of our Sarcoidosis Clinic, a total of 84 subjects were eligible but 16 of them declined to participate in the study. Thus, 68 patients were recruited and performed a baseline evaluation collecting data about demographic, Scadding stage on chest x-ray and corticosteroid treatment. Lung function tests of the cohort were collected including the following parameters: Forced Vital Capacity (FVC), Total Lung Capacity (TLC) and Diffusing Capacity divided by the Alveolar Volume (DL_{CO}/Va). Moreover, fatigue status and daytime sleepiness were assessed by completing the Fatigue Assessment Scale (FAS) and Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS) questionnaires. The FAS is a 10-item validated questionnaire to assess the fatigue in patients affected by sarcoidosis ranging from 10 to 50 points while the ESS determines the likelihood of falling asleep during various scenarios for a total score from 0 to 24. Fatigue was determined if $FAS \geq 22$ and extreme fatigue status if $FAS \geq 35$ points while daytime sleepiness was established if $ESS > 10$ points. Both FAS and ESS questionnaires were administered via face-to-face interview during the same baseline or follow up medical evaluation. Regardless of the result of the screening questionnaires, all patients scheduled an overnight home sleep study using a level III portable diagnostic device (Vital-Night Plus[®], VitalAire[®], Milan, Italy). The following parameters were measured: airflow measured by thermistor and nasal pressure cannula, thoraco-abdominal respiratory bands, pulse oximetry and body position. Obstructive sleep apnea syndrome was identified when apnea/hypopnea index (AHI) was found more than five events per hour during the night sleep study. Sleep studies were automatically

analyzed and then rescored using a manual editing of the total recording time. OSA severity was determined using the rescored apnea/hypopnea index (AHI) according to the following grading score: mild ($5 \geq AHI > 15$), moderate ($15 \geq AHI > 30$), severe ($AHI \geq 30$). All moderate-to-severe patients, along with those with mild OSA that have excessive daytime sleepiness or cardiovascular disease, were allocated to treatment. An autotset device was given with a pressure range between 8.0 and 15.0 cm H₂O (AirSense 10 AutoSet[®], Resmed[®]) in order to start a CPAP treatment.

Three-month follow-up

Patients that WERE allocated to treatment were evaluated after three months of CPAP therapy: fatigue status and daytime sleepiness were newly assessed and change from baseline to 90 days were collected. The minimal important difference (MID) in the change of FAS (Δ_{FAS}) is defined as a reduction of at least 4 points or 10% of the baseline value, while the MID in the change of ESS (Δ_{ESS}) is a reduction of at least 2 points of the baseline value. Also, compliance to CPAP therapy was evaluated by reading the device report and threshold of "good" compliance was defined as device use for more than 4 hours per night and at least 70% of total number of nights.

Statistical analysis

We analyzed the OSA prevalence in our Sarcoidosis Clinic. The sample was described using descriptive statistics techniques. Quantitative variables were summarized using means \pm standard deviation; categorical variables presented using (absolute and percentage) frequency tables. The strength of associations was assessed using Chi-Squared test (categorical variables) or Pearson correlation coefficient (continuous variables). Apnea-Hypopnea Index potentially independent predictors were investigated *post hoc* by using multiple linear regression analysis. Statistical results were adjusted for potential confounding variables. Correlation between baseline and follow up outcomes were assessed using a paired T-Test after being tested for normality. SAS version 9.4 or higher statistical software was used (SAS Institute Inc[®], Cary, North Carolina, USA).

RESULTS

Baseline characteristics

The flowchart diagram of the study is presented in Figure 1. We enrolled 68 patients and the cohort was predominantly female in 42 (61.8%). Mean age was 60.2 ± 10.0 SD along with a mean BMI of 27.9 ± 5.1 SD. 32 (50.0%) were former smokers with a mean pack/year of 8.8 ± 9.4 SD. Baseline lung function tests did show FVC % 108.6 ± 17.6 SD, TLC % 98.2 ± 13.1 SD and DLCO % 91.2 ± 16 . We also defined Sarcoidosis staging on the chest radiograph:

stage 0-I was identified in 28 (41.2%), stage II-III in 38 (55.9%) while stage IV in only 2 (2.9%). Corticosteroid therapy was confirmed in 31 (45.6%) and 26 (38.2%) were treated for more than three months with steroids.

Fatigue and daytime sleepiness

Fatigue status and daytime sleepiness were found to be common in our cohort: the FAS questionnaire assessed a mean FAS of 24.8 ± 9.7 SD, the fatigue status in 34 (50.0%) and an extreme fatigue status in 15 (22.1%), while the ESS questionnaire

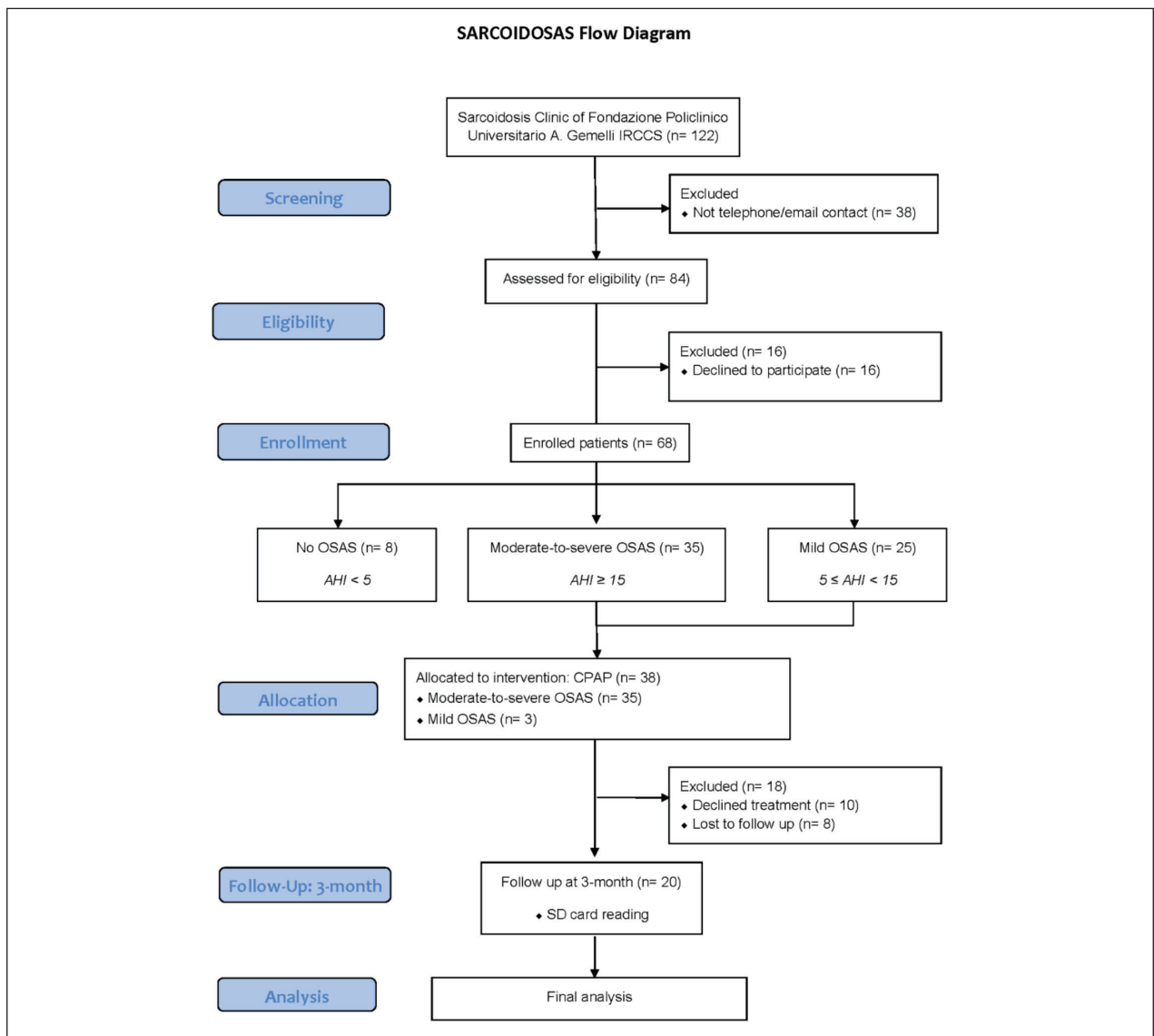


Fig. 5. Flow diagram.

did show a mean ESS of 7.9 ± 5.2 and the presence of daytime sleepiness in 21 (30.9%). Moreover, the baseline FAS score did show a negative correlation with male gender (coefficient B: -8.8 ; $p = 0.0001$) and correlate with ESS score at baseline (coefficient B: 0.74 ; $p = 0.001$).

Prevalence and severity of OSA

OSA was prevalent in the Sarcoidosis Clinic of our center and was diagnosed in 60 (88.2%): 25 (36.8%) had a mild grade and 35 (51.5%) were moderate-to-severe. CPAP was proposed according to AASM guidelines to all the moderate-to-severe patients ($n = 35$) and some of the mild group ($n = 3$ with history of ischemic heart disease) allocating a total of 38 (55.9%) patients to treatment. Table 1 describes the demographic and clinical characteristics of the groups.

Association between AHI and Baseline evaluation

AHI did show a negative, weak correlation with questionnaires results of FAS and ESS. The regression plots in Figure 2 illustrate the negative correlation coefficient (ρ) when AHI was compared to FAS ($\rho: -0.31$, $p = 0.009$) and ESS ($\rho: -0.32$, $p = 0.007$) at baseline. Also, TLC% predicted seems to be negatively correlated to AHI ($\rho: -0.47$, $p = 0.001$) along with FVC% predicted ($\rho: -0.34$, $p = 0.015$), while a positive, moderate correlation was established with weight ($\rho: 0.49$, $p = 0.001$) and BMI ($\rho: 0.41$, $p = 0.001$). The *post hoc* regression analysis (Table 2) adjusted for multiple variables (male gender, BMI, advanced Scadding stages, FAS/ESS at baseline, treatment with corticosteroids for more than 3 months at baseline) revealed some interesting insights. In this model, BMI, Scadding stage and FAS score behave as independent predictors of Apnea-Hypopnea Index

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics by OSA severity

Characteristic	None	Mild	Moderate-to-Severe	P value
Subjects, n (%)	8 (11.8%)	25 (36.7%)	35 (51.5%)	
Age in years, mean \pm SD	53.2 ± 5.7	61.5 ± 10.5	61.0 ± 10.1	NS
Gender, n				
Female	7	18	17	
Male	1	7	18	0.050
Anthropometrics, mean \pm SD				
Height, meters	1.58 ± 0.01	1.63 ± 0.01	1.65 ± 0.01	NS
Weight, Kilograms	65.9 ± 21.2	70.5 ± 10.6	80.7 ± 14.2	0.0045
BMI	26.2 ± 8.3	26.2 ± 3.1	29.5 ± 5.1	0.0302
Lung Function Test, % \pm SD				
FVC	105.4 ± 17.7	114.2 ± 16.9	105 ± 17.8	NS
TLC	97.4 ± 14.2	106.9 ± 10.4	92.1 ± 11.3	0.0010
DLCO/Va	79.0 ± 12.4	91.2 ± 18.3	94.8 ± 15.2	NS
Smoke, n (%)				
Ever smoker	5 (7.3%)	12 (17.6%)	15 (22.1%)	NS
Never smoker	3 (4.4%)	13 (19.2%)	20 (29.4%)	
Extrapulmonary involvement, n (%)				
No	7 (10.3%)	13 (19.2%)	18 (26.4%)	
Yes	1 (1.5%)	12 (17.6%)	17 (25.0%)	NS
Scadding stage, n (%)				
0-I	4 (5.9%)	11 (16.2%)	13 (19.1%)	
II-III-IV	4 (5.9%)	14 (20.5%)	22 (32.4%)	NS
Corticosteroids at baseline, n (%)				
No	6 (8.8%)	15 (22.1%)	16 (23.5%)	
Yes	2 (2.9%)	10 (14.8%)	19 (27.9%)	NS
FAS baseline score, mean \pm SD	28.9 ± 9.3	26.2 ± 8.9	22.8 ± 10.1	0.18
ESS baseline score, mean \pm SD	10.9 ± 7.2	8.9 ± 5.1	6.6 ± 4.4	0.055

BMI = Body Mass Index, FVC = Forced Vital Capacity, TLC = Total Lung Capacity, DLCO/Va = Diffusing Capacity / Alveolar Volume, FAS = Fatigue Assessment Scale, ESS = Epworth Sleepiness Scale, NS = Not significant

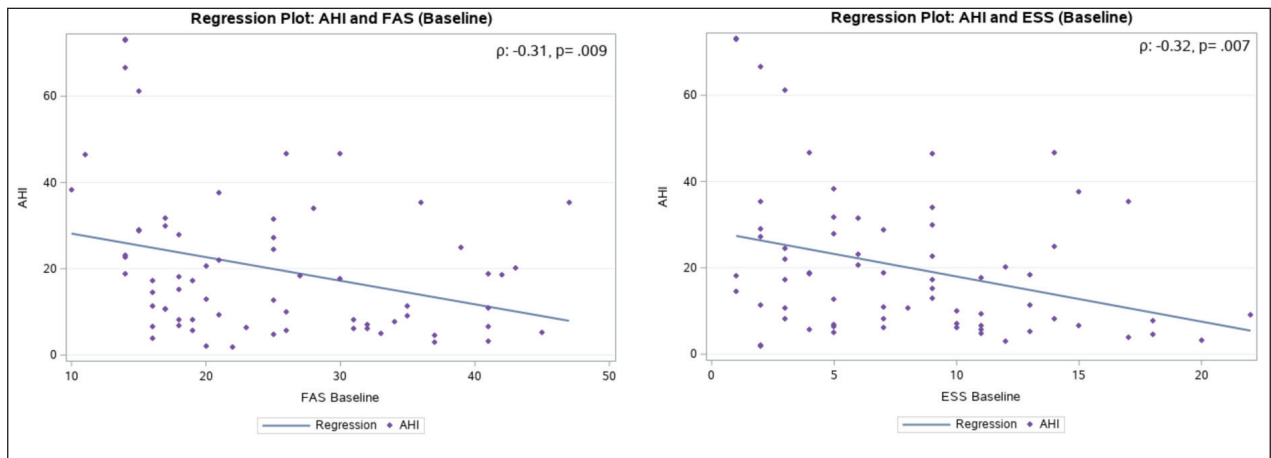


Fig. 2. Regression plot: FAS, ESS and AHI. FAS: Fatigue Assessment Scale, ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale, AHI: Apnea-Hypopnea Index, ρ : Pearson correlation coefficient.

Table 2. Regression analysis summary for independent predictors of AHI

Variable	Unadjusted			Adjusted*		
	B (95% CI)	t	P> t	B (95% CI)	t	P> t
Male gender	8.0 (-0.2-16.3)	1.94	0.056	10.2 (-0.1-20.1)	2.02	0.050
BMI	1.3 (0.6-2.0)	3.55	0.001	1.4 (0.6-2.2)	3.54	0.001
Scadding stages II-III-IV	5.6 (-2.7-13.8)	1.35	0.183	6.3 (-1.5-17.3)	2.04	0.048
TLC	-0.7 (-1-0.3)	-3.65	0.001	-0.5 (-0.8-0.2)	-2.83	0.007
FAS Baseline	-0.5 (-0.9-0.1)	-2.68	0.009	0.1 (-0.5-0.6)	0.11	0.916
ESS Baseline	-1.0 (-1.8-0.3)	-2.76	0.007	-1.1 (-1.9-0.2)	-2.40	0.021
Steroid treatment > 3m	5.2 (-3.0-13.4)	1.27	0.208	0.1 (-8.7-9.2)	0.03	0.997

*Adjusted R-squared: 0.47

AHI = Apnea-Hypopnea Index, BMI = Body Mass Index, CI: 95% Confidence Interval of Coefficient (B), ESS = Epworth Sleepiness Scale, FAS = Fatigue Assessment Scale, "m" = months, TLC = Total Lung Capacity.

severity while other covariates such as ESS score and steroids at baseline seems to be not related to AHI prediction. These results confirmed the known role of BMI along with the male gender in predicting severity of AHI but also enlightened that radiological impairment in sarcoidosis is associated to the OSA severity. Furthermore, the therapy with corticosteroids for more than 3 months in patients evaluated at baseline was not predictive of the AHI severity as described in the multiple regression analysis.

Three-month evaluation

An evaluation after three months since the CPAP start was obtained and 20 (29.4%) patients were analyzed. The follow-up questionnaires (FAS₉₀

and ESS₉₀) investigate fatigue and daytime sleepiness after CPAP treatment using the same items of the baseline questionnaires: FAS₉₀ had a mean of 18.7 ± 8.6 SD while ESS₉₀ was 4.0 ± 2.8 SD. Changes in FAS and ESS questionnaires score from baseline to 90-day are shown in Figure 3 and confirmed an improvement of fatigue and sleepiness: the change in FAS (Δ_{FAS}) was 6.3, 95% CI 4.7-8.9, p = 0.001 and the change in ESS (Δ_{ESS}) was 2.8, 95% CI 2.3-4.5, p = 0.005. CPAP adherence tracking data were analysed using the device's SD card. Compliance to treatment was good in 13 (65.0%) with a mean AHI residual of 3.4 ± 5.1 SD and a percentage of used days > 4 hours of 65% ± 34.7 SD. The explorative analysis shows that only good adherence to CPAP treatment (Figure 4) reduced fatigue (7.5, 95% CI

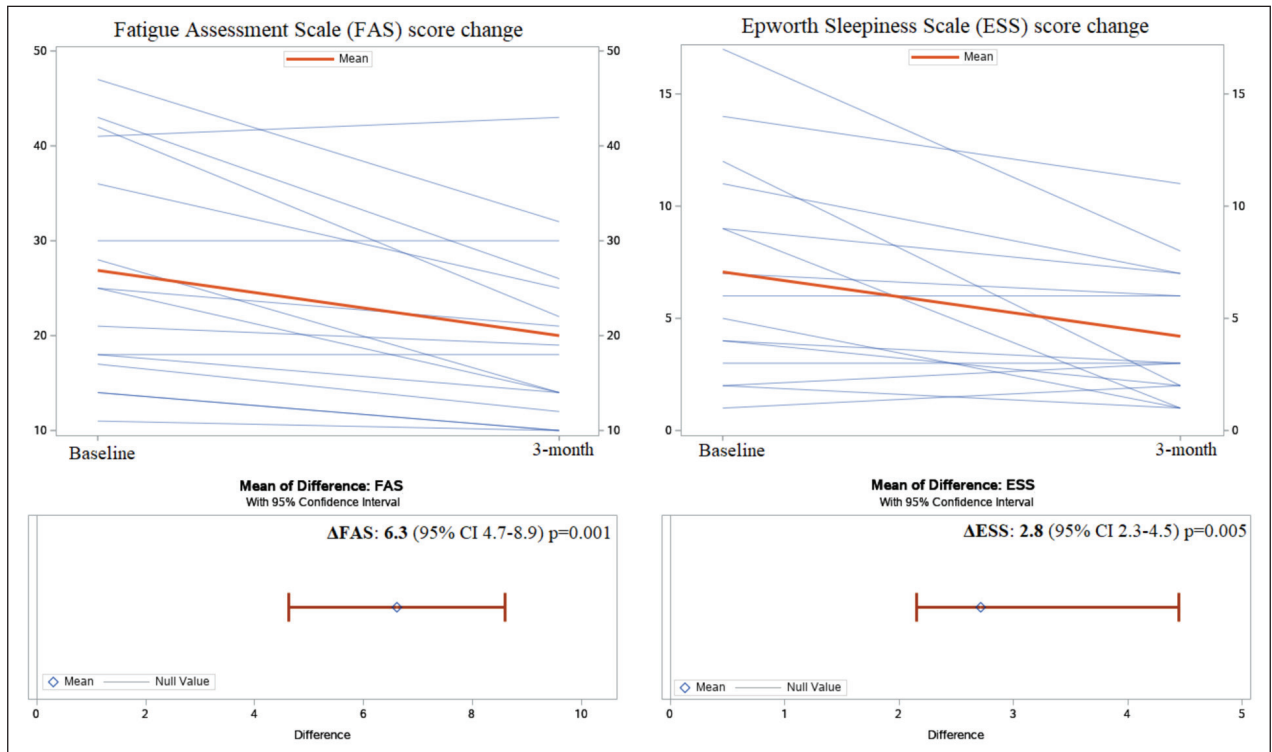


Fig. 3. Changing in FAS and ESS questionnaires score from baseline to 3-month. FAS: Fatigue Assessment Scale, ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale, Δ_{FAS} : Difference between baseline FAS and FAS at 3-month, Δ_{ESS} : Difference between baseline ESS and ESS at 3-month.

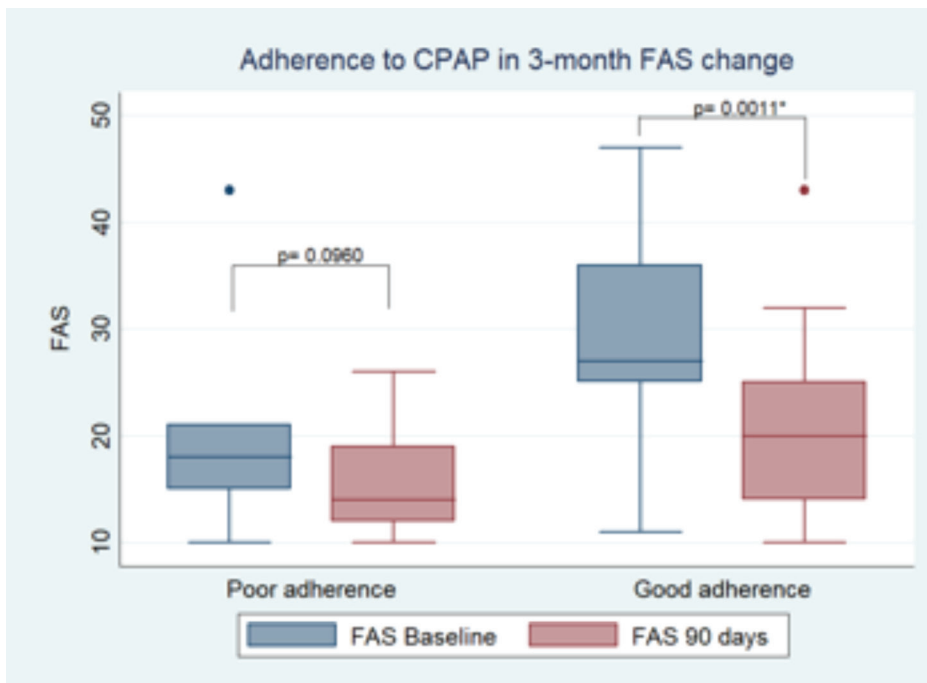


Fig. 4. Adherence to CPAP impact in FAS change at 3-month. FAS: Fatigue Assessment Scale. Compliance to CPAP therapy was evaluated by reading SD card at 3-month. Good compliance was defined as “device use for more than 4 hours per night and at least 70% of total number of nights”.

*Statistical significance using paired T-test

3.5-9.1; $p = 0.0011$) while poor compliance to CPAP therapy missed the statistical significance (4.4, 95% CI -1.0-9.9; $p = 0.0960$). Similarly, a statistical significant reduction in ESS score at 3-month was also demonstrated only in good compliance (2.92, 95% CI 1.1-4.7; $p = 0.0041$) when compared to poor one (3.14, 95% CI -0.1-6.3; $p = 0.0519$).

DISCUSSION

The analysis of the cohort from our institution demonstrate that OSA affects the majority of patients with sarcoidosis in our center and it must be taken into account during the clinical evaluation. The impressively high OSA prevalence might be explained by an impaired upper airway stability. We found that BMI, lower lung volumes in pulmonary function tests (TLC) and parenchymal involvement (Scadding stage) are independent predictors of OSA in sarcoidosis. Thus, the caudal traction on the upper airways results in increased collapsibility during the sleep due to the deposition of fat around upper airways and the reduction of the lung volumes. Moreover, advanced Scadding stages (II-to-IV) are independent predictors of higher AHI. The design of the study is not suitable to investigate if such significant association resulted from the inflammation mediators of the disease's activity or the concurrent steroid treatment. Considering that no patient received any other second-line treatment for sarcoidosis, the adjusted multivariate analysis of the AHI did not provide us with robust data to support the hypothesis of steroids as a possible risk factor or *primum movens* of sleep disorder because of the weight gain and BMI impact during treatment time. Notably, the small sample size and the limits might affect such investigations and we think that a call for further studies focusing on the relationship between steroids and OSA is justified.

Despite the high prevalence of OSA in patients affected by sarcoidosis, as far as we are aware, no data is available regarding the effect of OSA treatment with CPAP.

In this study, we report for the first time that CPAP treatment has a positive impact on reducing fatigue and sleepiness in sarcoidosis. Patients tolerant to positive pressure at the 3-month goal for adherence assessment, did show that a good compliance can reduce fatigue and sleepiness. These results

are particularly encouraging because no exhaustive treatment demonstrated efficacy for fatigue in sarcoidosis. Thus, the investigation and the treatment of comorbidities such as OSA, might represent a first step for treatment of fatigue status in sarcoidosis. Moreover, CPAP therapy improved symptoms of sleepiness assessed with ESS questionnaire more than the minimal clinically important difference at 3-month. Considering that the definition of excessive daytime sleepiness was met at baseline only in a small proportion, we may agree the clinical value of such ESS reduction is slightly limited. Though, we investigated the effect of positive pressure on sleepiness assessed with ESS score not only because no previous data was available in literature but also with regard to future, controlled studies specifically designed to address the role of CPAP treatment in sarcoidosis. Ultimately, a significant drop-out rate or poor adherence should be taken into account in forthcoming studies with CPAP treatment and face to face appointments or wireless telemonitoring could be possible, feasible strategies in order to improve CPAP compliance.

Limitations

The study demonstrated limitations. We performed a single-center study and the described prevalence of OSA may suffer from a selection bias that only a further, multi-center investigation may solve in order to generalize that Sleep Apnea is highly prevalent in sarcoidosis. A selection bias could also be implied in the higher FAS score at baseline in none-to-mild subjects when compared to the FAS score of moderate-to-severe cohort: FAS correlates with gender and the great proportion of females in none-to-mild cohort did play a role, resulting in the overestimation of the FAS. Also, the overnight sleep study was performed using a portable device for diagnosis of OSA instead of supervised in-laboratory polysomnography. In order to limit the possible overestimations²¹, one polysomnologist performed a manual editing of the total recording time of the whole sleep studies. We chose a single arm design without any control group when assessing the CPAP treatment effect on fatigue. Thus, the results must be considered as explorative findings and the effect of CPAP on fatigue raises a clinical question that should be addressed in future studies.

CONCLUSIONS

Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome is prevalent in the Sarcoidosis Clinic of our institution and has a great impact on fatigue status in patients affected by sarcoidosis. A higher upper airway collapsibility could be implied in such important prevalence of OSA in sarcoidosis due to the lower lung volumes and excessive BMI. Advanced Scadding Stages with severe parenchymal involvement is also an independent predictor of AHI and forthcoming studies should investigate on the association between steroids and OSA in sarcoidosis. Treatment with CPAP successfully reduced fatigue and daytime sleepiness symptoms after three months of therapy in those with good adherence to positive pressure treatment.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Drs Mari PV, Pasciuto G and Richeldi L had full access to all of the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the statistical analysis. We also acknowledge the patient's society "Amici Contro La Sarcoidosi Italia ONLUS" for the invaluable support. Concept and design: PVM, GP, LR, GMC, MS. Acquisition and collection of data: PVM, MS, JS, FB. Data analysis: PVM, LR, GMC. Manuscript drafting: PVM, LR, GP, GMC. Final approval of the manuscript: all authors.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The design, management, analysis and reporting of the study are independent. We did not receive any funding.

Abbreviations: AHI, Apnea-Hypopnea Index; BMI, Body Mass Index; CPAP, Continuous Positive Airway Pressure; CS, Corticosteroids; DLCO/Va, Diffusing Capacity divided by the Alveolar Volume; ESS, Epworth Sleepiness Scale; FAS, Fatigue Assessment Scale; FVC, Forced Vital Capacity; MID, Minimum Important Difference; ODI, Oxygen Desaturation Index; OSA, Obstructive Sleep Apnea; SDB, Sleep-Disordered Breathing; TLC, Total Lung Capacity

DISCLOSURES. Drs Mari, Pasciuto, Siciliano, Simonetti, Ballacci, Macagno, Corbo have nothing to disclose. Dr. Iovene reports personal fees from Menarini, personal fees from Boehringer Ingelheim, outside the submitted work. Dr. Martone reports

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