

ORIGINAL

Clinical outcomes after the recognition and management of Sjögren's syndrome in children: a Case Study

Resultados clínicos después del reconocimiento y manejo del síndrome de Sjögren en niños: un estudio de caso

Rajeswari S¹ , Pochampalli Deepthi² , Shalu Verma³ , Arvind Kumar⁴ , Anoop Dev⁵ , Ashmeet Kaur⁶ 

¹Kasturba Gandhi Nursing College, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Department of Child Health Nursing, Puducherry, India.

²Anurag University, Centre for Multidisciplinary Research. Hyderabad, India.

³Faculty of Dental Sciences, SGT University, Dept. of Pediatric and Preventive. Gurugram, India.

⁴Noida Institute of Engineering & Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Greater Noida, India.

⁵Centre of Research Impact and Outcome, Chitkara University, Rajpura, India.

⁶Chitkara Centre for Research and Development, Chitkara University, Chandigarh, India.

Cite as: S R, Deepthi P, Verma S, Kumar A, Dev A, Kaur A. Clinical outcomes after the recognition and management of Sjögren's syndrome in children: a Case Study. Health Leadership and Quality of Life. 2025; 4:614. <https://doi.org/10.56294/hl2025614>

Submitted: 06-06-2024

Revised: 05-11-2024

Accepted: 26-05-2025

Published: 27-05-2025

Editor: PhD. Prof. Neela Satheesh 

ABSTRACT

The most common symptoms of Sjögren's syndrome (SS), a common inflammatory disease, include xerostomia, keratoconjunctivitis sicca, enlargement of the salivary gland, and decreased function of the lacrimal and salivary glands. Secondary SS occurs in conjunction with inflammatory rheumatic illnesses, whereas primary SS manifests alone. Additionally, symptoms may not necessarily appear at the same time. The variety of symptom manifestation makes first diagnosis more challenging. Trained professionals, like rheumatologists, family doctors, ophthalmologists, and dental specialists, who might somehow focus just on those side effects that fall inside their fields of information, may get an exact portrayal of the patient by utilizing the more as of now refined indicative measures, prompting prior recognizable confirmation treatment of SS.

Keywords: Auto Antibodies; Dry Eye; Diagnostic; Sjögren's Syndrome (SS).

RESUMEN

Los síntomas más comunes del síndrome de Sjögren (SS), una enfermedad inflamatoria frecuente, incluyen xerostomía, queratoconjuntivitis seca, aumento del tamaño de las glándulas salivales y disminución de la función de las glándulas lagrimales y salivales. El SS secundario ocurre junto con enfermedades reumáticas inflamatorias, mientras que el SS primario se manifiesta de forma independiente. Además, los síntomas no siempre aparecen al mismo tiempo. La diversidad en la manifestación de los síntomas hace que el diagnóstico inicial sea más desafiante. Profesionales especializados, como reumatólogos, médicos de familia, oftalmólogos y odontólogos, quienes podrían centrarse solo en aquellos efectos que caen dentro de su ámbito de conocimiento, pueden obtener una evaluación más precisa del paciente utilizando los criterios diagnósticos más refinados disponibles actualmente, lo que facilita un reconocimiento y tratamiento más temprano del SS.

Palabras clave: Autoanticuerpos; Ojo seco; Diagnóstico; Síndrome de Sjögren (SS).

INTRODUCTION

Obstructive the exocrine glands that are most frequently affected by SS, a chronic autoimmune condition, are the salivary and lacrimal glands. Despite being very uncommon in children, SS can develop in them. Adults are often diagnosed with it more frequently.⁽¹⁾ The goals of SS treatment for Children should improve their quality of life, lessen symptoms, and prevent problems. Despite the fact that there is no treatment for the disorder, a multidisciplinary strategy including many healthcare professionals may assist manage the illness successfully.⁽²⁾ Children with Sjogren's illness can have the dry mouth and eyes that are typical in adults with the condition. Other typical symptoms include weariness, aching joints and muscles, recurrent vaginal or oral candidacies, and swollen salivary glands. Additionally, systemic symptoms in children, including organ involvement (such as the lungs, kidneys, and liver), rashes, fever, and swollen lymph nodes, can occur.⁽³⁾ SS cannot be cured thus; management and therapy focus on reducing symptoms and controlling side effects. Artificial tears, saliva replacements, and moisturizing chemicals can be used to treat the symptoms of dryness. Joint and muscular discomfort can be relieved by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs). To control systemic symptoms, doctors can sometimes administer immunosuppressive drugs such as hydroxychloroquine, methotrexate, or corticosteroids.⁽⁴⁾ SS patients need comprehensive treatment from a range of medical professionals, including pediatric rheumatologists, ophthalmologists, dentists, and other specialists as required. To manage symptoms, track disease activity, and handle any potential consequences, it's crucial to schedule routine follow-up appointments.⁽⁵⁾ Dryness it's important for handling dry lips and dry eyes. Saliva replacements and eye drops (artificial tears) can be used to treat dryness symptoms. Chewing sugar-free gum or using sugar-free lozenges can help boost salivation. Managing oral health requires frequent dental checkups. Dentists could advise fluoride treatments, the use of artificial saliva, and excellent oral hygiene habits. Encourage them to use hydrating creams and lotions to treat dry skin.⁽⁶⁾ SS is a systemic illness with a variety of symptoms that include damage or abnormalities to the exocrine gland tissues, as shown in figure 1.

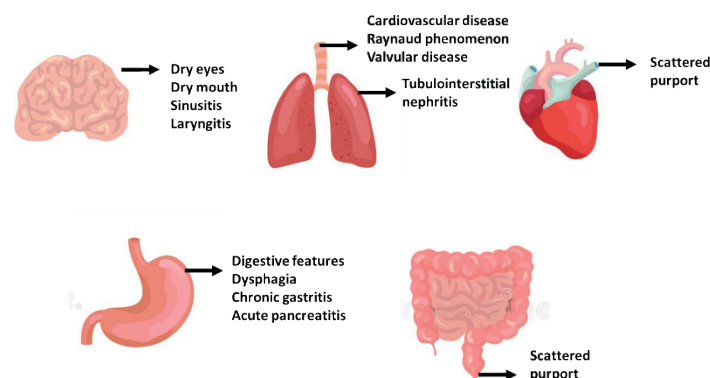


Figure 1. Typical SS symptoms, both glandular and extra glandular

Overcoming the obstacles to stop the global CVD Epidemic in poor that dangerous behaviors that are organization-variable, such as fatty foods, tobacco use, unhealthy body weight, and inactivity, can prevent most CVDs.⁽⁷⁾ An active organ, adipose tissue produces and releases provocative cytokines that alter the local tissue environment and promote systemic lip toxicity. There was discussion of the biology of adipose tissue inflammation and the link between adipokines linked to obesity and CVD.⁽⁸⁾ High blood pressure (BP) is one of the primary modifiable risk factors for CVD and all-cause death. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that diabetes kills 9.5 million people worldwide each year. By 2030, hypertension-related diseases are predicted to account for over 25 % of deaths in both developed and developing countries.⁽⁹⁾ Compared to massive retail chains of supermarkets or convenience shops, the percentage of food markets and small specialty retailers is higher in Mediterranean food ecosystems. These little specialty shops include butchers, fruit and vegetable shops, and fishmongers. However, the relevance of these specialty food stores as additional sources of nutrient-dense foods has yet to be explored.⁽¹⁰⁾ Since eating habits are the most controllable risk factor for preventative medicine, dietary guidelines and recommendations have successfully shifted from single-nutrient and food-based approaches and their influence on chronic illnesses to a whole-diet approach.⁽¹¹⁾ In a cohort of autonomous people at elevated risk for CVD, the research evaluates the impact of MD therapies over three years to a low-fat diet (LFD) on markers of inflammation linked to cholesterol.⁽¹²⁾ Based on the recommended as-used severity rating for retinopathy, Micro aneurysm, intraregional hemorrhage, venous beading, revascularization, vitreous/pre-retinal hemorrhage, cotton wool patches, retinal thickness, and hard exudates are the lesions that make up the scale.⁽¹³⁾ Diet can affect disease risk and decline in cognition; however, the data is still controversial. The Mediterranean diet (MedDiet), for example, is thought to include

antioxidant and antibacterial compounds that reduce the incidence of CVD.⁽¹⁴⁾ The purpose of the article is to review and compile information from studies on the health advantages of medications, including those that have been the subject of much research as well as more contemporary topics like immunity, mental health, and quality of life.⁽¹⁵⁾ In this research gap, they utilize a population-level dataset of British individuals from the UK Biobank to examine the individual and combination relationships between diet and physical activity and mortality from all causes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.⁽¹⁶⁾ They examine the significance of vigorous-intensity physical activity (VPA) in addition to moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity (MVPA), taking into account the expanding body of research on the possible extra benefits linked to VPA, irrespective of total exercise quantity.

Prevalence of SS

There are around 1 million people with a confirmed diagnosis; however, it is probable that the condition goes untreated in the majority of instances due to the variety and often generic character of its clinical presentations. SS may affect persons of any age, but often shows up in the 40-60 age range, with a 9:1 female to male proportion.⁽¹⁷⁾

Pathophysiology of SS

The pathophysiology of SS depends on the activation of the immune system throughout time. The cellular and humoral autoimmune responses seen in SS patients are thought to be regulated by B and T cells; however, the precise mechanisms by which this occurs are yet unknown. Auto antibodies in the bloodstream and hypergammaglobulinemia are two ways that B-cell hyperactivity is shown. The biological antigenic of neurons, the gland of the thyroid gland, stomach tissue, and erythrocyte the pancreatic gland, the prostate, and oral ducts are among the organs that have specific antibody. Most SS patients (around 60 %) exhibit non-organ-specific antigens. Before inflammation becomes obvious, these auto antibodies can cause tissue malfunction. Focused lymphocytic infiltrates, usually around the glandular ducts, are histopathology features in SS. These pathogenic characteristics include the infiltration of lymphocytes into the lacrimal and salivary glands, as well as other external glands in the pulmonary, digestive, and vaginal systems. Activated CD4+ helper T cells predominate among the T, B, and plasma cells that make up the infiltrate. Lymphocytes, which locally manufacture immunoglobulins with autoantibody reactivity, make up around 20 % of the infiltrate population. Dry mouth and eyes are symptoms of glandular dysfunction, which is caused by the main salivary glands swelling when the infiltration finally expands to involve the acinar epithelium. The antigen-presenting ability of epithelial cells may be improved by inflammatory mediators like interferon (IFN) and TNF, or, in the case of IFN, these cytokines can cause salivary gland epithelial cells (SGECs) to undergo programmed cell death by up-regulating the Fas protein, a receptor on the cell membrane.

Systemic disease and organs affected

Organ-specific and systemic inflammation is significantly linked to SS, a systemic illness. For instance, in 45 % of a group of individuals with primary SS, thyroid dysfunction and/or autoimmune thyroid illness were discovered. Vascular involvement in SS patients can cause gastrointestinal symptoms, glomerulonephritis, and peripheral neuropathy. There are several systemic signs and symptoms of SS, which may make a diagnosis challenge.

Fatigue

Patients stay in bed for many more hours in an effort to sleep or relax, but the majority say they don't feel rested when they wake up. Although the exact reason of this weariness is unknown, hypothyroidism, which is commonly linked to SS and is typically asymptomatic, can be a factor. One research found that 7 % of fibromyalgia patients also had SS, while another found that 22 % of individuals with main SS also had fibromyalgia.

Muscle and bone involvement

When SS is the major cause of joint pain, it often manifests as an occasional polyarticular arthropathy that mostly affects smaller joints, occasionally asymmetrically. Joint abnormalities and slight erosions are very uncommon, although a non-erosive arthritis that mimics SLE can temporarily manifest. Up to 53 % of patients have arthralgias, while 22 % of patients have myalgias.⁽¹⁸⁾ Clinically and serologically, primary SS is often mistaken for RA, but secondary SS is frequently discovered in RA patients.

Pulmonary involvement

Although frequent, lung involvement in SS patients is seldom clinically important. The predominant respiratory symptom is often a cough, which is typically a sign of xerotrachea. Pseudo lymphoma, lymphocytic interstitial pneumonitis, and lymphocytic pneumonitis and fibrosis are further possible pulmonary consequences.

Despite the possibility of small-airway blockage indicated by pulmonary function test findings, agonists or corticosteroids provide only marginally meaningful benefits.

Gastroenterological involvement

The whole gastrointestinal tract can be affected in SS patients. Individuals with SS infrequently have malabsorption brought on by lymphocytic infiltrates of the gut, and 36 % to 90 % of individuals have been found to have esophageal dysmotility.⁽¹⁹⁾ Additionally, these individuals will have xerostomia, but they won't have exophthalmia or have anti-Ro/SS-A antibodies. Around 7 % of people with primary SS have ant mitochondrial antibodies, and a smaller percentage have abnormal liver enzyme values, which indicate hepatic involvement. Stage 1 primary biliary cirrhosis-like histopathological characteristics are seen.

Renal implications

Kidney tubulointerstitial involvement in SS patients can damage the tubules. On a pathologic examination, tubulointerstitial nephritis with sparing of the glomeruli is frequently observed. The majority of the inflammation in the interstitial space is lymphocytic in nature in interstitial fibrosis and tubular atrophy. SS individuals with retinal anomalies can have hematuria, proteinuria, and kidney failure. Some people might eventually develop nephritic syndrome. With substantial hypertension and renal impairment, certain individuals may develop renal vacuities.

Neurological involvement

Neurologic Involvement Neurologic illness, which can affect the cranial as well as the central anxious system sometimes, is one of the most frequent important systemic symptoms of SS. One set of patients with primary SS showed peripheral neuropathy, particularly sensory, in 22 % (10/46) of the cases; in 5 patients (11 %), it was the presenting symptom. Although there was no evidence of necrotizing vacuities, the neuropathy was linked to changes in the endometrial micro vessels. Although its occurrence is debatable, central nervous system illness is thought to be very uncommon in SS patients. Thirty women with primary SS were included in the research, and 14 (46 %) of them had sensor neural hearing loss, which was substantial in five cases. Anticardiolipin antibodies were associated with hearing loss in these individuals, pointing to an underlying autoimmune etiology.

Hematologic/oncologic involvement

Malignant lymph proliferation may already exist or can develop later in the course of the illness. Waldenstroem macroglobulinemia is one of the early signs of monoclonal B-cell proliferation. Individuals with SS who have risk factors for developing lymphoma should be closely monitored. Risk factors include monoclonal cryoglobulinemia, purpura, low C4 levels, and long-term organ augmentation.⁽²⁰⁾ The majority of B-cell-lineage lymphomas in SS patients are low- to intermediate-grade malignancies. Additional nodal sites in the thyroid, thyroid gland, lung, kidney, or orbit are frequently present in these lymphomas.

Clinical ss symptoms and signs for diagnosis

There are many SS symptoms that are misleadingly general, and there are a lot of different clinical presentations. Early signs of dry mouth and eyes might be mistaken for atopic dermatitis and anxiety, respectively. Furthermore, the signs and symptoms of xerostomia are widespread and somewhat subjective. Significant salivary gland enlargement, lymphadenopathy, splenomegaly, and pulmonary infiltrates are all indicators of lymph proliferation. The growth of polyclonal proteins, newly diagnosed leucopenia and anemia, and a loss of specific antigens are examples of laboratory data that should be carefully examined over time in SS patients to check for symptoms of lymphoma development. Recent research on 261 Greek patients found that mixed monoclonal cryoglobulinemia and A 6- to 8-fold higher relative risk of developing lymphoma was linked to low C4 levels.

Ocular manifestations

The most notable ocular SS symptom is dry eye. Despite having normal-looking eyes, dry eye symptoms might include itchiness, grittiness, or pain. Visual secondary effects integrate, yet are not limited to, discharge from the eyes, photosensitivity, erythematic, eye shortcoming, lessened visual perception, covering the visual field. Even though reduced tear production is a hallmark of SS, ocular pain is not closely associated with real tear flow rates. The inner canthus can develop thick, rope-like discharges as a consequence of a diminished tear film and an abnormal mucus component.⁽²¹⁾ Mucus streamers that attach to the broken parts of the ocular layer can indicate filamentary keratitis during a slit lamp examination. In more extreme cases, desiccation can result in tiny, superficial erosions of the corneal epithelial. It's also possible for Both *Staphylococcus aureus* to cause cataracts. Lacrimal gland enlargement is quite uncommon. Ocular problems can sometimes result in corneal perforation, vascularization, pacification, and ulceration.

Oral manifestations

Although xerostomia symptoms usually accompany the presenting signs and symptoms of SS, the patient can instead express concerns about an unpleasant taste, discomfort when chewing dry foods like crackers, pain, or trouble managing dentures. This is contrast to the normal pooling of saliva that usually forms on the mouth's floor. The oral mucosa has a dry, glossy appearance and a propensity to develop fine wrinkles in more advanced illness. Patients with SS may have a clicking sensation in their speech as a result of their mouth being excessively dry, which causes the tongue to adhere to the palate. The tongue's surface usually becomes lobulated, red, and partially or completely depopulated. There was no discernible difference between any of the three groups' periodontal health. Particularly in senior people with SS, xerostomia can cause denture problems and the need for costly dental restorations. Other oral symptoms might include pain, food sticking to the buccal surfaces, tongue fissures, and dysphasia.

Vaginal and other glandular involvement

Desiccation of the vagina and vulva in SS patients who are female can cause dyspareunia and itching. According to one research, 26 % of 169 SS patients had vaginal symptoms. But prior research that contrasted 57 women with SS found. The reproductive success, parity, and fertility of the healthy control subjects did not vary between the two groups. In this investigation, vaginal shrinkage and decreased cervical mucus production did not correlate with any clinical indication of SS, age and menopause. In SS patients, glandular secretions can be reduced or absent from the respiratory tract, resulting in a prolonged, ineffective cough and dryness of the nose, throat, and trachea. Patients with SS have skin dryness due to exocrine gland involvement. Occasionally, other systemic symptoms, such as the existence of anti-Ro/SS-A antibodies, coexist with skin-specific vacuities, which might manifest as purpura. Leukocytoclastic vacuities, which causes necrotizing neutrophilic inflammation of tiny dermal blood vessels and often manifests as palpable purpura and mildly elevated hemorrhagic skin lesions, is the most common histologic finding.

The significance of accurate diagnostics

Although it can be challenging to obtain an early and precise SS diagnosis, it can aid in the prevention of many of the illness' side effects or ensure that they can be treated promptly. Early recovery of salivary purpose can reduce or even eliminate the advancement of oral effects of SS such periodontal diseases, oral candidacies, and dental caries, as well as relieve indicators of dry mouth. For instance, early resumption of salivary function might alleviate dry mouth symptoms and perhaps stop or decrease the progression of oral consequences of SS, such as periodontal disease, oral candidacies, and dental caries. Malignant lymphoma and interstitial lung disease, two severe systemic effects of SS, can be detected and treated earlier with early diagnosis.⁽²²⁾ The worry that comes with an undiscovered disease can also have a negative impact on the patient's psychological health if there is a significant delay in diagnosis. The ability to differentiate between primary and secondary SS as well as recognize its clinical signs are all necessary for a proper diagnosis for SS.

Diagnostic criteria

Albeit a little salivary organ biopsy was in many cases thought to as highest quality level for determination of SS, more current measures presently empower the sickness to be recognized without the requirement for this treatment. Recent modifications and reapproval of criteria with around the consensus group determined 95 % of SS's sensitivity and specificity. Figure 2 illustrates how these criteria explain for significant histopathological abnormalities in tiny salivary organs, adverse effects, both individual and capacity-specific, including antibodies to the Ro/SS-An and La/SS-B antigens. The criteria⁵⁵ will probably be used to identify eligible individuals in future treatment studies and should aid in the early and accurate identification of SS.

Diagnostic methods

Since a to properly diagnose SS, one must be aware of how much the mouth and eyes are affected. To impartially research tear creation, the schirmer test for the eye embeds channel paper into the lower conjunctival sac. After five minutes, the test is successful if there is less than 5 mm of moist paper. Following two patient blinks, to execute rose Bengal scoring, 25 milliliters of rose Bengal solution are injected into the inferior fornix of each eye. Desiccation-induced destruction of the conjunctival epithelium is discovered by slitlamp inspection. Using a calibrate tube for 15 minutes, sialometry measures the amount of unstipulated saliva flowing through it; a typical flow is more than 1,5 mL. Sialometry is straightforward and non-invasive; however, it cannot differentiate between different xerostomia causes on its own.

Differential diagnosis

The conditions and medications that have the potential to cause parotid gland enlargement, xerostomia, and keratoconjunctivitis sicca are included in the differential diagnosis of SS. Additionally, several medications, such as antihypertensive, parasympatholytic, and psychotherapy medicines, may cause xerostomia. Dry eyes

can result from a variety of illnesses, including amyloidosis, inflammation, SS, neurologic disorders that affect the function of the eyelids or lacrimal glands, sarcoidosis, poisoning.⁽²³⁾ A labial biopsy produced the highest accurate diagnosis (specificity 88,9 %, +LR 8,71, sensitivity 96,8 %). In serological testing, anti-SSA had a greater sensitivity than anti-SSB, while anti-SSB had a very high degree of specificity. At the specified thresholds of the criteria, TBUT and Sch-I demonstrated inadequate accuracy and specificity for the diagnosis of SS, as seen in Figures 3 and 4.

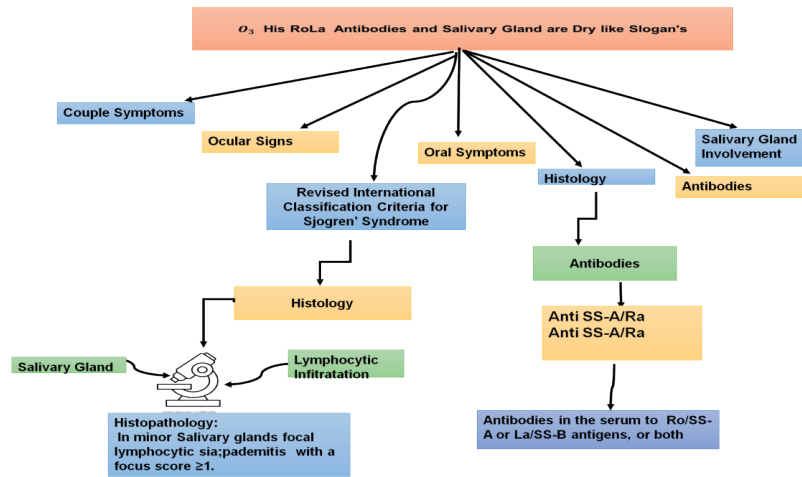


Figure 2. Sjögren's syndrome Criteria for diagnosis

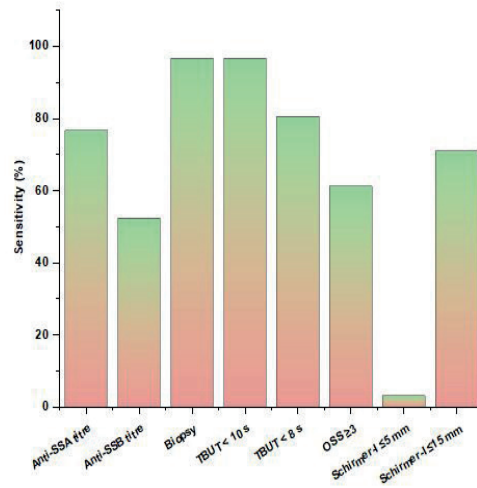


Figure 3. Sensitivity diagnostic tests' propensity for prediction

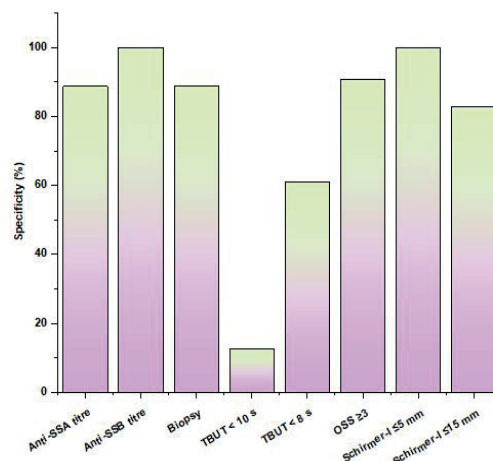


Figure 4. Diagnostic tests' propensity for prediction for specificity

Endocrine conditions, metabolic illnesses, SS, or viral infections can all cause bilateral parotid gland enlargement. The differential diagnosis is particularly crucial to the treatment of systemic SS symptoms.⁽²⁴⁾ Additionally, it crucial to rule out any other systemic diseases such sarcoidosis, amyloidosis, HIV infection, and lymphoma that might impact exocrine glands. The aim of the workup for SS is to describe the major characteristics of SS and to rule out differential diagnostic possibilities (table 1). The cooperation of many experts, in addition to the rheumatologist, is usually required for a thorough workup for SS to properly check the eyes, oral cavity, head, and neck.

Table 1. Procedure for SS	
Ocular	Schirmer test Cut light assessment with essential color Tear separation time
Other	Laboratory testing for rheumatology, organ-specific antibodies, and viral infections, as well as salivary gland sonography/MRI, lymph node or bone marrow biopsy
Oral	Salivary flow estimation based on salivary scintigraphy, small salivary gland biopsies, and dental exams
Systemic	Complete medical history, CBC, bilirubin levels, ESR, SUN/Cr, ANA, RF, anti-SS-A/SS-B, absolute IgG, IgM and IG; A; thyroxine and TSH; SPEP; U/A Chest radiograph, in addition introductions.

Treatment

To identify and treat complications of the illness early on, SS is mostly treated symptomatically. The goal of treatment is generally to reduce the harm caused by keratoconjunctivitis and persistent xerostomia. Products that replenish moisture can be beneficial for people who have mild to severe discomfort. Since the majority of SS patients still have some remaining acute cell activity, treatment with muscarinic antagonists such the drug dosage and cevimeline salt has medicinal benefits for xerostomia and sicca kerato conjunctivitis.

Ocular disease

Tear replacements can assist restore moisture when used often, and versions without preservatives can help prevent irritation from developing from repeated usage. Despite the possibility of severe visual impairment, lubricating ointments and methylcellulose inserts are often only used at night. To stop tear drainage and keep existing tears in place, the puncta can be temporarily blocked by inserting plugs or permanently blocked by electrocautery. Goggles with carefully designed side chamber can help store moisture that is already present. Despite the poor level of patient acceptability, these devices may be useful in windy environments. Although they might be useful, soft contact lenses include a risk of infection. Treatment for infections that manifest suddenly worsened symptoms and/or increased mucus production is necessary. Since corticosteroid-based ophthalmic therapies have the potential to cause corneal lesions or promote infection, it is recommended to avoid them. A possible side effect of dry eye is inflammation of the meibomian glands, also known as blepharitis. Secretagogues are a viable treatment option for ocular dryness when moisture replacement or preservation methods are ineffective. Summarizes the findings of the testing for dry eyes. Patients with SS had substantially ($p < 0.001$) different mean and standard deviation (SD) values for the Schirmer-I, OSS, TBUT, and OSDI tests compared to those without SS. But when relative thresholds were used, the tests were unable to distinguish between Sch-I at a level of 5 mm and TBUT at a threshold of 10. However, a much higher number of individuals with SS had an OSS of 3. Figures 5, 6, and 7.

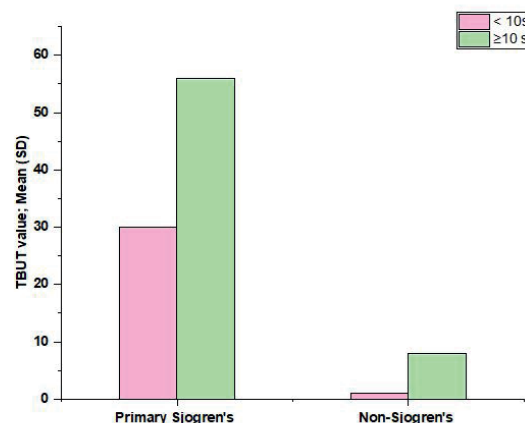


Figure 5. Dry eye test for TBUT value

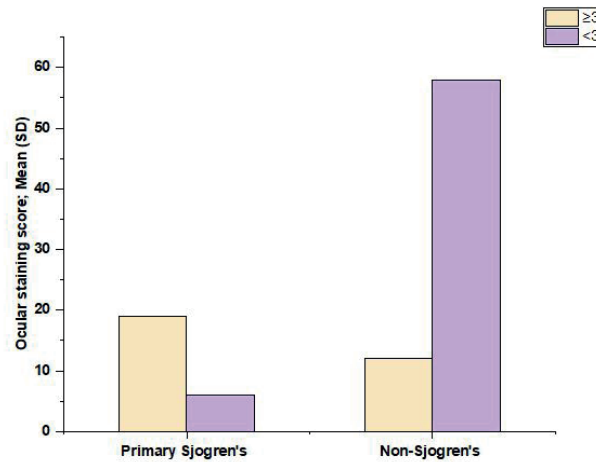


Figure 6. Dry eye test for Ocular staining score

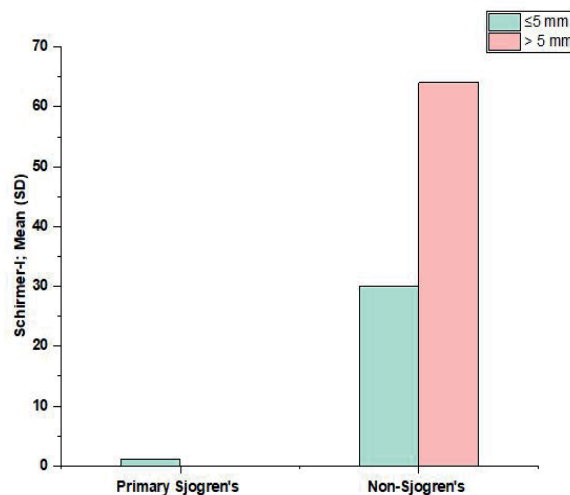


Figure 7. Dry eye test for Schirmer-I

In stage 3 preliminaries of the later specific muscarinic agonist cevimeline hydrochloride, the most widely recognized secondary effect was unnecessary gentle to direct perspiring, with a recurrence almost a portion of that of pilocarpine organization. Table 2 compares the pharmacologic characteristics of various drugs. Sweating was the side effect that occurred most often throughout therapy. In research contrasting cevimeline, 30 or 15 mg three time's day, with placebo, dry eye symptoms in SS patients with keratoconjunctivitis sicca decreased statistically substantially.⁽²⁵⁾

Attribute	Cevimeline Hydrochloride	Pilocarpine Hydrochloride
Major muscarinic Adverse effects (%)	Excessive sweating (40), nausea (14), rhinitis (11),	Excessive sweating (40), nausea (10), rhinitis (9),
Peak onset of action	15-2 h	1 h
Half-life	Approximately 5 h	Approximately 1 h
Dose form	Capsule	Tablet
Dose strength	30 mg	5 mg

Oral disease

Treatment for SS includes the use of saliva substitutes, stimulation of saliva production, and the prevention of dental caries and infections that can be caused by xerostomia. These symptoms are brought on by a lack of saliva. Despite being an option, patients seldom utilize saliva replacements because they find them to be unappetizing and short-lived. However, individuals who have extreme dryness and no remaining salivary function

should be provided saliva replacements.⁽²⁶⁾ Thorough dental care is necessary, including routine dental checkups and fluoride treatment at home and in the clinic. Intraoral candidacies can cause some serious symptoms, which should be managed with misstating. Nystatin vaginal pills dissolved orally are an alternative to the regularly used oral solution since it does not include enough sucrose to be suitable for individuals with SS. Additionally, clotrimazole lozenges can be employed. These should be taken five times each day for 14 days. An angular cheilitis can also be treated with misstating or clotrimazole cream. Diuretics, antihypertensive medications, antidepressants, and antihistamines should all be avoided if at all feasible by SS patients since they may all aggravate salivary hypo function.

Systemic disease

No steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines often relieve the uncomfortable parotid edema and modest muscular symptoms of SS. Antirheumatic medications that change the condition are seldom utilized since erosive disease is not widespread. In individuals with primary SS, hydroxychloroquine has been reported to ameliorate immunologic hyperactivity-related symptoms, but no clear therapeutic improvement has been shown. As well as treating constitutional symptoms, arthralgias, and myalgias, hydroxychloroquine is also utilized to treat these conditions.⁽²⁷⁾ Hypergammaglobulinemia and autoantibody levels were improved by hydroxychloroquine in preliminary small open research, although longer-term effectiveness of the medication has to be examined. The use of corticosteroids is often restricted to the management of severe extra glandular SS symptoms. Rarely, a brief course of low-dose corticosteroids may be able to treat very painful or incapacitating joint problems. By using a low-dose corticosteroid cream on occasion, pruritus and moderate leukocytoclastic vacuities can be managed. Prednisone can be used to treat membrane proliferative glomerulonephritis in the beginning. After bathing, you may lessen skin dryness naturally by gently patting the skin dry, leaving just a small quantity of moisture, and then putting on lotion. In situations of hypergammaglobulinemic purpura, it's also advisable to wear loose, non-form-fitting clothes. Manageable treatments for xerotrachea include humidification, Secretagogues, and guaifenesin.

CONCLUSIONS

The diagnosis and treatment of the prevalent autoimmune condition Sjogren's syndrome are commonly put off. Due to its systemic nature, this condition can present with a wide range of clinical indications, making diagnosis more challenging and time-consuming. Rheumatologists, family doctors, ophthalmologists, and dentists are among the many specialists who often get referrals for SS patients. These professionals often only view a tiny portion of the total picture, which makes diagnosis very challenging. A broader approach to identifying this illness is encouraged by a greater understanding of SS and its various and diverse presentations. Early diagnosis of SS patients can benefit from the use of newly improved diagnostic criteria. Regrettably, there is presently no medication that can be used to lessen the glandular lymphocytic infiltration that causes SS's exocrine gland failure. Dry mouth and eyes can be treated using moisture replacement and preservation methods such as moisturizing lotions, artificial tears, and saliva that encourage exocrine secretions. Systemic signs of illness can be treated with corticosteroids and treatments tailored to the afflicted organs or systems (e.g., intravenous immunoglobulin and ursodeoxycholic acid for liver and neurologic involvement, respectively).

REFERENCES

1. Alvarez-Alvarez I, Toledo E, Lecea O, Salas-Salvadó J, Corella D, Buil-Cosiales P, Zomeño MD, Vioque J, Martínez JA, Konieczna J, Barón-López FJ. Adherence to a priori dietary indexes and baseline prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors in the PREDIMED-Plus randomised trial. *European Journal of Nutrition*. 2020 Apr;59:1219-32. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00394-019-01982-x>.
2. Andreu-Reinón ME, Chirlaque MD, Gavrila D, Amiano P, Mar J, Tainta M, Ardanaz E, Larumbe R, Colorado-Yohar SM, Navarro-Mateu F, Navarro C. Mediterranean diet and risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease in the EPIC-Spain dementia cohort study. *Nutrients*. 2021 Feb;13(2):700. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13020700>.
3. Aoun C, Papazian T, Helou K, El Osta N, Khabbaz LR. Comparison of five international indices of adherence to the Mediterranean diet among healthy adults: similarities and differences. *Nutrition research and practice*. 2019 Aug 1;13(4):333-43. <https://doi.org/10.4162/nrp.2019.13.4.333>.
4. Battino M, Forbes-Hernández TY, Gasparrini M, Afrin S, Cianciosi D, Zhang J, Manna PP, Reboledo-Rodríguez P, Varela Lopez A, Quiles JL, Mezzetti B. Relevance of functional foods in the Mediterranean diet: the role of olive oil, berries and honey in the prevention of cancer and cardiovascular diseases. *Critical reviews in food science and nutrition*. 2019 Mar 26;59(6):893-920. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10408398.2018.1526165>
5. Bonaccio M, Costanzo S, Di Castelnuovo A, Persichillo M, Magnacca S, De Curtis A, Cerletti C, Donati MB,

de Gaetano G, Iacoviello L, Moli-sani Study Investigators. Ultra-processed food intake and all-cause and cause-specific mortality in individuals with cardiovascular disease: the Moli-sani Study. *European Heart Journal*. 2022 Jan 14;43(3):213-24. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehab783>.

6. Díez J, Bilal U, Franco M. Unique features of the Mediterranean food environment: Implications for the prevention of chronic diseases Rh: Mediterranean food environments. *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 2019 Jul;72(Suppl 1):71-5. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41430-018-0311-y>

7. Ding D, Van Buskirk J, Nguyen B, Stamatakis E, Elbarbary M, Veronese N, Clare PJ, Lee IM, Ekelund U, Fontana L. Physical activity, diet quality and all-cause cardiovascular disease and cancer mortality: a prospective study of 346 627 UK Biobank participants. *British journal of sports medicine*. 2022 Oct 1;56(20):1148-56. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2021-105195>

8. Fresán U, Martínez-González MA, Sabaté J, Bes-Rastrollo M. Global sustainability (health, environment and monetary costs) of three dietary patterns: results from a Spanish cohort (the SUN project). *BMJ open*. 2019 Feb 1;9(2):e021541. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-021541>

9. Gutierrez-Mariscal FM, Cardelo MP, de La Cruz S, Alcalá-Díaz JF, Roncero-Ramos I, Guler I, Vals-Delgado C, López-Moreno A, Luque RM, Delgado-Lista J, Perez-Martinez P. Reduction in circulating advanced glycation end products by mediterranean diet is associated with increased likelihood of type 2 diabetes remission in patients with coronary heart disease: from the cordioprev study. *Molecular Nutrition & Food Research*. 2021 Jan;65(1):1901290. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mnfr.201901290>

10. Han Y, Zeng H, Jiang H, Yang Y, Yuan Z, Cheng X, Jing Z, Liu B, Chen J, Nie S, Zhu J. CSC expert consensus on principles of clinical management of patients with severe emergent cardiovascular diseases during the COVID-19 epidemic. *Circulation*. 2020 May 19;141(20):e810-6. <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.120.047011>

11. Hosking DE, Eramudugolla R, Cherbuin N, Anstey KJ. MIND not Mediterranean diet related to 12-year incidence of cognitive impairment in an Australian longitudinal cohort study. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*. 2019 Apr 1;15(4):581-9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jalz.2018.12.011>.

12. Li J, Guasch-Ferré M, Chung W, Ruiz-Canela M, Toledo E, Corella D, Bhupathiraju SN, Tobias DK, Tabung FK, Hu J, Zhao T. The Mediterranean diet, plasma metabolome, and cardiovascular disease risk. *European heart journal*. 2020 Jul 21;41(28):2645-56. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehaa209>

13. Lim CC, Hayes RB, Ahn J, Shao Y, Silverman DT, Jones RR, Thurston GD. Mediterranean diet and the association between air pollution and cardiovascular disease mortality risk. *Circulation*. 2019 Apr 9;139(15):1766-75. <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.118.035742>.

14. Liu X, Zheng Y, Guasch-Ferré M, Ruiz-Canela M, Toledo E, Clish C, Liang L, Razquin C, Corella D, Estruch R, Fito M. High plasma glutamate and low glutamine-to-glutamate ratio are associated with type 2 diabetes: case-cohort study within the PREDIMED trial. *Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases*. 2019 Oct 1;29(10):1040-9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.numecd.2019.06.005>

15. Martínez-González MA, Gea A, Ruiz-Canela M. The Mediterranean diet and cardiovascular health: A critical review. *Circulation research*. 2019 Mar 1;124(5):779-98. <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.118.313348>

16. Mendonça RD, Carvalho NC, Martín-Moreno JM, Pimenta AM, Lopes AC, Gea A, Martínez-González MA, Bes-Rastrollo M. Total polyphenol intake, polyphenol subtypes and incidence of cardiovascular disease: The SUN cohort study. *Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases*. 2019 Jan 1;29(1):69-78. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.numecd.2018.09.012>

17. Morera LP, Marchiori GN, Medrano LA, Defagó MD. Stress, dietary patterns and cardiovascular disease: A mini-review. *Frontiers in neuroscience*. 2019 Nov 12;13:1226. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnins.2019.01226>.

18. Picard K, Senior PA, Perez SA, Jindal K, Richard C, Mager DR. Low Mediterranean Diet scores are associated with reduced kidney function and health related quality of life but not other markers of cardiovascular risk in adults with diabetes and chronic kidney disease. *Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases*. 2021 May 6;31(5):1445-53. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.numecd.2021.02.002>.

19. Rahimlou M, Grau N, Banaie-Jahromi N, Taheri M, Khosravi A, Mavrommatis Y, Mohammadifard N. Association of adherence to the dietary approach to stop hypertension and Mediterranean diets with blood pressure in a non-hypertensive population: Results from Isfahan Salt Study (ISS). *Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases*. 2022 Jan 1;32(1):109-16. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.numecd.2021.09.029>
20. Rana MN, Neeland IJ. Adipose tissue inflammation and cardiovascular disease: an update. *Current Diabetes Reports*. 2022 Jan;22(1):27-37. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11892-021-01446-9>
21. Rosato V, Temple NJ, La Vecchia C, Castellan G, Tavani A, Guercio V. Mediterranean diet and cardiovascular disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. *European journal of nutrition*. 2019 Feb 1;58:173-91. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00394-017-1582-0>
22. Salinero-Fort MA, Andrés-Rebollo FS, Cárdenas-Valladolid J, Méndez-Bailón M, Chico-Moraleja RM, de Santa Pau EC, Jiménez-Trujillo I, Gomez-Campelo I, de Burgos Lunar C, de Miguel-Yanes JM. Cardiovascular risk factors associated with acute myocardial infarction and stroke in the MADIABETES cohort. *Scientific reports*. 2021 Jul 27;11(1):15245. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-94121-8>
23. Sánchez-Sánchez ML, García-Vigara A, Hidalgo-Mora JJ, García-Pérez MÁ, Tarín J, Cano A. Mediterranean diet and health: A systematic review of epidemiological studies and intervention trials. *Maturitas*. 2020 Jun 1;136:25-37. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.maturitas.2020.03.008>
24. Serra-Majem L, Roman-Vinas B, Sanchez-Villegas A, Guasch-Ferre M, Corella D, La Vecchia C. Benefits of the Mediterranean diet: Epidemiological and molecular aspects. *Molecular aspects of medicine*. 2019 Jun 1;67:1-55. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mam.2019.06.001>
25. Tierney A, Lordan R, Tsoupras A, Zabetakis I. Diet and cardiovascular disease: The mediterranean diet. In *The impact of nutrition and statins on cardiovascular diseases 2019 Jan 1* (pp. 267-288). Academic Press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-813792-5.00008-2>
26. Urpi-Sarda M, Casas R, Sacanella E, Corella D, Andrés-Lacueva C, Llorach R, Garrabou G, Cardellach F, Sala-Vila A, Ros E, Ruiz-Canela M. The 3-year effect of the Mediterranean diet intervention on inflammatory biomarkers related to cardiovascular disease. *Biomedicines*. 2021 Jul 22;9(8):862. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biomedicines9080862>
27. Veronese N, Notarnicola M, Cisternino AM, Inguaggiato R, Guerra V, Reddavid R, Donghia R, Rotolo O, Zinzi I, Leandro G, Tutino V. Trends in adherence to the Mediterranean diet in South Italy: A cross sectional study. *Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases*. 2020 Mar 9;30(3):410-7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.numecd.2019.11.003>

FINANCING

None.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

Conceptualization: Rajeswari S, Pochampalli Deepthi, Shalu Verma, Arvind Kumar, Anoop Dev, Ashmeet Kaur.

Data curation: Rajeswari S, Pochampalli Deepthi, Shalu Verma, Arvind Kumar, Anoop Dev, Ashmeet Kaur.

Formal analysis: Rajeswari S, Pochampalli Deepthi, Shalu Verma, Arvind Kumar, Anoop Dev, Ashmeet Kaur.

Investigation: Rajeswari S, Pochampalli Deepthi, Shalu Verma, Arvind Kumar, Anoop Dev, Ashmeet Kaur.

Methodology: Rajeswari S, Pochampalli Deepthi, Shalu Verma, Arvind Kumar, Anoop Dev, Ashmeet Kaur.

Writing - original draft: Rajeswari S, Pochampalli Deepthi, Shalu Verma, Arvind Kumar, Anoop Dev, Ashmeet Kaur.

Writing - review & editing: Rajeswari S, Pochampalli Deepthi, Shalu Verma, Arvind Kumar, Anoop Dev, Ashmeet Kaur.