SARCOIDOSIS AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOR LUNG DISEASES JORDANOVAC

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Background and aim.
Sarcoidosis, a multiorgan granulomatous disorder, pursues an unpredictable course that varies with race and geographic location of the patient. Thus, the reports of sarcoidosis from various parts of the world are of considerable interest. The aim of this communication is to present clinical features of patients with sarcoidosis at the University Hospital for Lung Disease in Zagreb.

Methods.
320 sarcoidosis patients who attended the out-patient's department at the University hospital for lung diseases in Zagreb from 2007-2015 were analyzed.

Results.
The patients' age ranged from 21 to 73 years (mean 40.1). There were 65% women (average age 42 years) and 35% men (average age 36.5 years). The acute onset of the disease was detected in 44% of patients, 98% of them had abnormal chest x-ray films, and 54% BALF finding of CD4/CD8 >4. The lung function impairment was mild (27% of the patients had a DLco<80%, 16% had FEV1 <80% and 13% had FVC<72%). A little more than half of
the patients had some extrathoracic manifestation of the disease. One of every three patients had the skin lesions, making cutaneous involvement the most common of the extrathoracic manifestations of the disease in our series. Serum ACE was elevated in 56.5% and 7% of the patients had hypercalcemia. Hypercalciuria was three times as common as hypercalcemia for it occurred in 20.5% of the patients.

Conclusion.

The clinical characteristics of sarcoidosis patients in Croatia differ in some respects from the neighboring countries and indicate that sarcoidosis in this country presents in mild, almost Nordic like mode.