

EULAR Diffuse Idiopathic Skeletal Hyperostosis Study Group

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Xenofon Baraliakos and Prof. Dr. Reuven Mader

The aim of the Study Group is to investigate the clinical presentation and necessary diagnostic procedures for ensuring the diagnosis of diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH). So far, such information is not precisely existing because of the unclear clinical symptoms of this disease, which is mainly diagnosed by rheumatologists after structural changes in the axial skeleton and also clinical symptoms of a metabolic syndrome have occurred. Furthermore, there is no consensus of which diagnostic criteria are best suitable in order to diagnose DISH and differentiate it from other inflammatory rheumatic diseases that are associated with hyperproliferative changes in the axial skeleton.

Specifically:

- organize and present a systematic literature review of the currently existing criteria for diagnosing DISH in daily practice
- assess the value of clinical symptoms and objective findings (including imaging and laboratory markers) and producing a diagnostic algorithm for patients who are clinically suspicious for DISH
- organize long-term projects with patients diagnosed with DISH in order to document the natural process of the disease, including current treatment practices
- identify factors that may be able to predict the development of the typical structural bony changes leading to functional disability and pain in patients with metabolic syndrome
- investigate the pathogenetic pathways that lead to new bone formation
- investigate if the disease is conditioned by a genetic predisposition.

Coordinators and current members : Xenofon Baraliakos (Germany, current coordinator), Reuven Mader (Israel, current coordinator), Jorrit-Jan Verlaan (Netherlands), Iris Eshed (Israel), Bruges-Armas Jacomé (Portugal), Piercarlo Sarzi Puttini (Italy), Fabiola Atzeni (Italy), Dan Buskila (Israel), Irina Novofastovski (Israel), Kurt de Vlaam (Belgium), Asim Khan (USA), David Kiefer (Germany), J.E. Bulsink (Netherlands, patient´s representative), Walter Alberto Sifuentes Giraldo (Spain). Additional patient´s representatives are currently in discussion with the group.

The Study Group is open to anyone interested in the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of patients with DISH.