



EPIDEMIOLOGY

## INCIDENCE OF AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES (AIBD): 20-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

*M Milinkovic Sreckovic<sup>(1)</sup> - S Jankovic<sup>(2)</sup> - L Medenica<sup>(1)</sup> - V Reljic<sup>(1)</sup> - M Nikolic<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Clinical Center Of Serbia, Faculty Of Medicine, University Of Belgrade, Department Of Dermatovenereology, Belgrade, Serbia<sup>(1)</sup> - Faculty Of Medicine, University Of Belgrade, Institute Of Epidemiology, Belgrade, Serbia<sup>(2)</sup>*

**Introduction:** Most epidemiologic surveys have focused on a single, or just one group of AIBD. Several studies have described the whole spectrum of AIBD, only few of them have investigated the incidence of various AIBD.

**Objective:** In the present study we aimed to determine the spectrum of ABD, to estimate the incidence of the most frequent AIBD and to examine their time trends in Central Serbia over a period of 20 years.

**Methods:** We retrospectively recruited 1161 new AIBD cases diagnosed in Central Serbia (5.5 million inhabitants) from 1991 to 2010. The diagnosis was based on strict clinical, histo/immunopathological evaluation.

**Results:** Pemphigus was diagnosed in 478 patients, female/male ratio 1.44, the incidence rate 4.35 pmp/year. Pemphigoid was identified in 491 patients, female/male ratio 1.49, the incidence rate 4.47 pmp/year. Dermatitis herpetiformis (DH) was found in 156 patients, male/female ratio 1.3, the incidence rate 1.42 pmp/year. In the period observed, age-adjusted incidence rates significantly increased for pemphigus and particularly pemphigoid, while they decreased, but not significantly for DH. The incidence rates of pemphigus and pemphigoid are similar in Serbia, which has not been found in any other country. The incidence of pemphigus was very close to the one in neighboring countries, higher than in Western Europe and lower than the incidence in the countries with the population of Mediterranean region and Middle East. The incidence of pemphigoid in Serbia was higher than in neighboring countries and Middle East, but lower than in Western Europe.

**Conclusions:** Our study evaluates for the first time the incidence rates of the whole spectrum of AIBD in Serbia and examines their time trends over a period of 20 years. To the best of our knowledge, our finding of similar incidence of pemphigus and pemphigoid is unique in the world.

