INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective To do a systematic review of literature on the relapse of sarcoidosis after stopping treatment. To determine pooled prevalence of sarcoidosis relapse from eligible studies.

Rationale Sarcoidosis relapses are a common occurrence in the course of the disease after stopping treatment. Sarcoidosis relapse is defined by the recurrence of symptoms following a remission of at least one month that requires treatment reinitiation. Relapse is typically most common in the first 6 months to a year of treatment cessation. However, relapses can also occur later. A patient with sarcoidosis relapse may present with varied pulmonary and extrapulmonary manifestations with wide phenotypic differences. Few studies have reported the prevalence of relapse after stopping the treatment. Our study will examine how often sarcoidosis relapses after treatment by performing a systematic review and meta-analysis.

METHODS

Search strategy We will search electronic databases up to July 2023. ("Sarcoidosis"[All Fields] OR "Sarcoid"[All Fields]) AND ("Relapse"[All Fields] OR "Re-initiation"[All Fields] OR "Reinitiation"[All Fields] OR "Restart"[All Fields] OR "Non-responsive"[All Fields] OR "Nonresponsive"[All Fields] OR "Progressive"[All Fields]).

Participant or population Sarcoidosis treated with glucocorticoids or other immunosuppressants.

Intervention Treatment with glucocorticoids or other immunosuppressants is required for a definition of relapse.

Comparator None.
Study designs to be included Retrospective, Ambispective, Prospective.

Eligibility criteria All studies having data on relapse or recurrence after stopping treatment will be included.

Information sources Studies identified through Database Search PubMed/MEDLINE Embase Scopus Google Scholar.

Main outcome(s) Prevalence of relapse in patients treated with corticosteroids or other immunosuppressants.

Data management Data will be entered into Excel. We will import all references to EndNote 21.0.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis Visual inspection of funnel plot. Egger’s test, Begg and Mazumdar’s test.

Strategy of data synthesis We will use STATA 18.0 for conducting metaanalysis. We will extract information on relapse occurrence from all studies.

Subgroup analysis If data on further subgroups like gender is available, then we will perform a sex-based subgroup analysis on relapse.

Sensitivity analysis We will perform sensitivity analysis if we have access to the data.

Language restriction No language restriction, if translation is available in English language.

Country(ies) involved India.

Keywords Sarcoidosis, Relapse, Granulomatous disease.

Dissemination plans Sarcoidosis, Relapse, Granulomatous disease.

Contributions of each author
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