

Supplementary Information

Cardiovascular Imaging in Psoriasis: A Critical Review of Current Evidence, Techniques, and Therapeutic Implications

Jacopo Tartaglia, Monica Ponzano, Roberto Mazzetto, Alvis Sernicola, Christian Ciolfi, Francesco Tona, Stefano Piaserico

American Journal of Clinical Dermatology, 2025

Table S1. Cardiovascular imaging in moderate-to-severe psoriasis: Study-level details of the quantitative findings in the reviewed literature.

Reference, study design	Diagnosis (n), observations	Outcomes	Effects of treatments
Transthoracic Doppler Echocardiography (TTE)			
Osto et al. [13] Cohort study	Psoriasis, (56) mean age 37 years	CFR: 3.2 vs 3.7 (p = 0.02) in psoriasis vs controls PASI: 11 vs 7 (p = 0.006) with CFR ≤2.5 vs CFR > 2.5 Predictors of CMD: Disease duration > 6 years (OR 1.9; p = 0.03) and PsA (OR 2.9; p = 0.03)	NA
Gullu et al. [27] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (36)	CFR: 2.19 vs 2.60 (p<0.0001) in psoriasis vs controls Inverse correlation between CFR and PASI (r = -0.359) Inverse correlation between CFR and disease duration (r = -0.418; p = 0.01)	NA
Ikonomidis et al. [21] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (185), PsA (126)	CFR: 2.19 vs 3.4 (p<0.05) in psoriasis vs controls 2.75 vs 2.96 (p=0.045) in PsA vs psoriasis alone	NA
Jain et al. [25] Meta-analysis	Psoriasis (557)	CFR impairment: pooled SMD -0.71 (95% CI: -0.97 to -0.45; p < 0.00001)	NA
Piaserico et al. [10]	Psoriasis (153)	CMD:	NA

Retrospective study		Risk of MACE: OR 9.9 (95% CI 6.1–15.8; $p < 0.0001$) in patients with CFR ≤ 2.5 CMD associated with: severe psoriasis (OR 3.1, $p = 0.03$), psoriatic arthritis (OR 2.9, $p = 0.03$), disease duration >6 years (OR 1.9, $p = 0.03$). Patients with CFR ≤ 2.5 had a lower survival free from events ($p < 0.0001$)	
Piaserico et al. [23] Prospective study	Psoriasis (37)	Baseline CFR was impaired, with a substantial proportion of patients showing CMD (CFR ≤ 2.5)	TNF inhibitor therapy: CFR from 2.2 to 3.02 ($p < 0.0001$) CFR from 1.88 to 2.74 ($p < 0.0001$) in patients with baseline CFR ≤ 2.5
Piaserico et al. [24] Cohort study	Psoriasis (448)	CMD: 31.5% of patients Associated with PASI, disease duration and PsA (+1 point PASI and +1 year of psoriasis duration associated with 5.8% and 4.6% increased risk of CMD, respectively)	NA
Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA)			
Lerman et al. [46] Prospective study	Psoriasis (105)	Total plaque burden vs controls: 1.22 vs 1.04 ($p = 0.001$) non-calcified burden vs controls: 1.18 vs 1.03 ($p = 0.004$) non-calcified burden vs hyperlipidemic controls: 1.18 vs. 1.11 ($p=0.02$)	Systemic/biologic therapies (methotrexate, TNF, IL-12/23, and IL-17 inhibitors): improvements in total and non-calcified plaque burden in patients whose PASI decreased ($\beta = 0.45$ and $\beta = 0.53$, respectively; $p < 0.001$)
Joshi et al. [47]	Psoriasis (190)	Non-calcified plaque burden:	NA

Cross-sectional study		$\beta = 0.49$ ($p < 0.001$)	
Elnabawi et al. [8] Prospective study	Psoriasis (215)	Non-calcified plaque burden: Independent correlation with PASI score ($\beta = 0.20$; $p < 0.001$)	Biologic therapy for 1 year: non-calcified plaque burden -6% ($p = 0.005$) necrotic core volume decreased ($p = 0.03$). Plaque regression $\Delta -0.07 \text{ mm}^2$ vs. 0.06 mm^2 ($p = 0.02$) in biologic-treated patients compared to non-biologics
Chen et al. [53] Meta-analysis	Psoriasis (1287)	EAT on echocardiography: Increased in psoriasis (SMD 2.45; 95% CI 0.73–4.17), EAT on single-slice CT: enlarged EAT area in psoriatic patients (SMD 0.45; 95% CI 0.14–0.76). EAT on CT: no difference in EAT volume between patients and controls (SMD 0.32; 95% CI –0.06 to 0.70)	NA
Bao et al. [9] Prospective study	Psoriasis (98)	PFAl: –80.19 vs –78.14 HU ($p < 0.001$) in psoriasis vs controls	NA
Elnabawi et al. [57] Prospective study	Psoriasis (134), moderate to severe	Low traditional cardiovascular risk; moderate-to-severe psoriasis; similar baseline PFAl and plaque prevalence in treated and untreated groups	One year of biologic therapy: PFAl –71.22 to –76.09 HU ($p < 0.001$)
O'Hagan et al. [52]	Psoriasis (66)	Following biologic therapy, a trend toward reduced EAT volume was observed ($p = 0.053$)	Biologic therapy: total arterial plaque burden 1.24 to 1.13 mm^2 ($p = 0.035$) non-calcified plaque 1.19 to 1.07 mm^2 ($p = 0.040$)

Longitudinal study			fibrous burden 0.88 to 0.82 mm ² (p = 0.006)
Positron Emission Tomography (FDG-PET/CT)			
Naik et al. [63] Prospective case-control study	Psoriasis (60) with mild–moderate disease; low traditional cardiovascular risk	FDG uptake: elevated in aortic segments compared to controls (mean β = 0.33; p < 0.001) aortic target-to-background ratio correlating with PASI score (β = 0.41; p = 0.001),	NA
Kaiser et al. [64] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (83), half had established CVD	PET-PASI: strong correlation with clinical PASI (r = 0.53; p < 0.001)	NA
Groenendyk et al. [66] Longitudinal cohort study	Psoriasis (165)	AWT: Correlation with PASI (p = 0.20; p = 0.01). Correlation with FDG uptake in the aortic wall at baseline (unadjusted β = 0.27; p = 0.001; adjusted β = 0.21; p = 0.01)	Treatment for 1 year: decreased AWT associated with reduced FDG uptake (β = 0.33; p = 0.02)
Rose et al. [65] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (10), RA (5)	Mean metabolic volumetric product: Elevated with β = 0.31–1.47 (p < 0.001) and β = 0.15–0.69 (p < 0.05) in psoriasis and in RA, respectively, compared to healthy controls	NA
Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (CMR)			
Gröschel et al. [11] Prospective study	Psoriasis (60), using systemic immunomodulators and with median PASI 2.6	Global radial and circumferential strain: reduced (p < 0.001) Global T1 times and ECV: elevated LGE: 28.3% non-ischemic fibrosis T2 mapping: no active inflammation	NA

Goldenberg et al. [82] Retrospective study	Psoriasis (47), including with suspect cardiac disease	Adjusted septal T2 time: increased compared to controls (p = 0.048)	NA
Carotid and Femoral Ultrasound			
Gonzalez-Juanatey et al. [84] Cohort study	PsA (50)	FMD% on brachial ultrasound: mean, median [range] 6.3%, 6.1% [0.3-13.4%] vs 8.2%, 8.2% [0.0-21.2%] (p = 0.008) vs controls	NA
Eder et al. [86] Case-control study	PsA (40)	CIMT: mean +/- standard deviation, 1.04 +/- 0.35 mm vs 0.88 +/- 0.29 (p = 0.03) vs controls Carotid plaque index: 2.3 +/- 2.6 vs 1.12 +/- 2.09 (p = 0.03) vs matched controls	NA
Enany et al. [87] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (50), moderate-to-severe	CIMT: increased compared to healthy controls correlation with PASI and with disease duration and PASI	NA
Bańska-Kisiel et al. [88] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (74), mild or moderate	mean CCA CIMT: mean 1.03 ±0.37 mm correlation with PASI (r = 0.33; p = 0.007) but not with disease duration	NA
Piros et al. [90] Prospective study	Psoriasis (31), severe	Baseline carotid, brachial and femoral IMT frequently above age-adjusted normal; non-	IL-17 inhibitors for 6 months: CIMT from 1.1 mm to 0.8 mm (p < 0.001) and from 1.1 mm to 0.7 mm (p < 0.001) in the right and in the left carotid, respectively

		calcified plaques present in a substantial proportion of patients.	
Gonzalez-Cantero et al. [91] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (70), moderate to severe	Prevalence of femoral plaques: 44.64vs 19.07% (p<0.005) vs controls Prevalence of carotid plaques: numerically higher in psoriasis, not significant (p = 0.30)	NA
Arterial stiffness and arterial tonometry			
Ikonomidis et al. [20] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (59)	cf-PWV: 10.4 vs 8.6 m/s (p < 0.001) compared to healthy controls	NA
Gisondi et al. [95] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (39), moderate to severe	higher cf-PWV: 8.88 vs 7.57 (unadjusted p = 0.001; adjusted p = 0.03) vs controls with other skin diseases Arterial stiffness and psoriasis duration positively correlated (r = 0.58; P = 0.0001)	NA
Makavos et al. [96] Prospective study	Psoriasis (298), moderate to severe, 4-year follow up for MACEs	PWV at baseline: Average 10.75 ± 2.5 m/s Higher PWV associated with increased MACE risk: HR 1.16 (p = 0.049 with univariate Cox regression analysis)	Biologic therapy for 6 months: PWV 10.20 ± 1.8 m/s (p < 0.001) PWV from 10.67 to 10.13 (p < 0.001) in patients free from MACE PWV from 11.50 to 11.02 m/s (p = 0.05) in patients with MACE
Agoglia et al. [97] Cross-sectional study	Psoriasis (80)	cf-PWV ≥10 m/s (increased arterial stiffness) in 21.2% Arterial stiffness associated with: older age OR = 1.21 (p = 0.003)	NA

		cumulative methotrexate exposure > 1500 mg OR = 0.18 (p = 0.033)	
Cohen-Barak et al. [99] Prospective study	Psoriasis (26), moderate-to-severe	Baseline RHI frequently abnormal; short-term antipsoriatic treatment improved PASI but not RHI	Systemic treatment or phototherapy for 8-12 weeks: RHI: 1.73 ± 0.48 vs. 1.66 ± 0.35 (p = n.s.) despite clinical improvement; trend toward worsening in patients with normal baseline RHI
Nakao et al. [100] Prospective study	Psoriasis (15)	Overall RHI unchanged despite PASI improvement; early decline in RHI identified long-term nonresponders	Two infliximab infusion: median RHI 2.31 to 1.96 (p = 0.49) Decline in RHI predicted non-response (100% specificity)
Ortolan et al. [101] Prospective study	PsA (32)	Over 5 years, carotid IMT and plaque burden increased in the first 2 years then stabilized; FMD values showed no significant change	Anti TNF for 5 years: FMD: stable despite reductions in CRP and disease activity
Von Stebut et al. [102] Randomized trial	Psoriasis (151)	Baseline FMD lower in psoriasis vs volunteers; no significant FMD difference vs placebo at 12 weeks; FMD increased at 52 weeks	Anti-IL-17A for 1 year: FMD modestly improved

Abbreviations:

AWT, aortic wall thickness; CAC, coronary artery calcium; CCA, common carotid artery; CCTA, coronary computed tomography angiography; CFR, coronary flow reserve; cf-PWV, carotid–femoral pulse wave velocity; CI, confidence interval; CIMT, carotid intima-media thickness; CMD, coronary microvascular dysfunction; CMR, cardiovascular magnetic resonance; CT, computed tomography; CVD, cardiovascular disease; EAT, epicardial adipose tissue; FDG, fluorodeoxyglucose; FDG-PET/CT, fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography; FMD, flow-mediated dilation; FMD%, flow-mediated dilation percentage; HU, Hounsfield unit; IL, interleukin; IMT, intima-media thickness; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular events; NA, not assessed; OR, odds ratio; PASI, psoriasis area and severity index; PET, positron emission tomography; PFAl, perivascular fat attenuation index; PsA, psoriatic arthritis; PWV, pulse wave velocity; RA, rheumatoid arthritis; RHI, reactive hyperemia–peripheral arterial tonometry index; SMD, standardized mean difference; TNF, tumor necrosis factor.

