

Ultrasound in-depth characterization and staging of hidradenitis suppurativa

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Background The clinical diagnosis of fistulous tracts and recurrent fluid collections in hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) may be complex. Information on subclinical involvement and grading of severity may improve management. **Objective** To study HS lesions and evaluate the relevance of adding ultrasound (US) to the clinical examination. **Methods and Materials** We reviewed the sonograms of consecutive patients with HS from January 1, 2010 to May 31, 2012. The abnormalities observed in the US examinations were organized, classified, and integrated into a clinical-sonographic scoring system (SOS-HS), to stage the disease. **Results** Thirty-four patients with HS with a total of 142 lesional areas were evaluated. US findings included subclinical fluid collections in 76.4% of the patients, fistulous tracts in 29.4%, dermal pseudocysts in 70.6%, and widening of the hair follicles in 100%. Concordance with the clinical HS scoring performed by dermatologists showed a significant fair agreement ($k = 0.30$;