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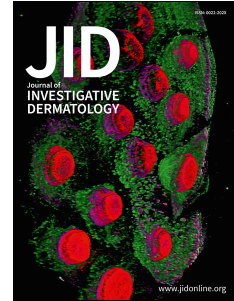


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1 **A20 haploinsufficiency: A systematic review of 177 cases.**

2

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14

1 Abstract

2 A20 haploinsufficiency (HA20) is an autoinflammatory disease caused by defective
3 inactivation of NF- κ B pathway. We conducted a systematic literature review of articles
4 reporting patients with *TNFAIP3* mutations from 2016 to August 2023 following PRISMA
5 guidelines. Data of 177 patients from 65 articles were retrieved (108 women). The principal
6 features were: mucosal ulcers (n=129), fever (n=93) followed by gastrointestinal (n=81), skin
7 features (n=76), autoimmunity (n=61) including thyroiditis (n=25) and Lupus (n=16), and joint
8 involvements (n=54). Five patients had died at the time of publication. In 54/63 patients, C-
9 reactive protein was significantly elevated during flares, with a median of 51mg/L. Most
10 commonly used treatment included corticosteroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
11 (n=32), TNF-blockers (n=29), colchicine (n=28) and methotrexate (n=14). *TNFAIP3* variants
12 impacted the OTU domain in 92 cases and a Zinc finger domain in 68 cases. Geographic origin,
13 gender and variant type significantly impacted phenotype. A better understanding of the wide
14 HA20 phenotype could facilitate the diagnosis process. Much remains to be elucidated about
15 pathogenesis and treatment to improve outcome in HA20 patients.

1 **Introduction**

2 A20 haploinsufficiency (HA20) is an inborn error of immunity caused by heterozygous loss-
3 of-function mutations in the highly conserved gene *TNFAIP3*, which encodes the protein A20
4 (Yu et al. 2020). In humans, *TNFAIP3* was identified in genome-wide association studies long
5 before the discovery of HA20, as single-nucleotide polymorphisms were associated with the
6 development of autoimmune diseases such as Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE),
7 Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and diabetes (Vereecke et al. 2014). A monogenic *TNFAIP3*-
8 associated disease was described in 2016 upon the description of patients with heterozygous
9 loss-of-function mutations in this gene. Since then, the analysis of *TNFAIP3* has been added to
10 next generation sequencing (NGS) panels worldwide, allowing the diagnosis and publication
11 of hundreds new cases. These publications have enlarged the clinical spectrum of HA20, which
12 has finally evolved to be considered as a distinct entity at the crossroads between auto-
13 inflammation and autoimmunity (Yu et al. 2020).

14 A20 is a 790 amino-acids protein with 8-domains consisting of an N-terminal ovarian tumor
15 (out) and a C-terminal region containing 7 zinc-finger motifs (Chen et al. 2020b). A20 possesses
16 unique ubiquitin-editing properties allowing both ubiquitination and deubiquitylation. By
17 tagging important actors of canonical NF- κ B activation (RIP1, TRAF6 among others) for
18 degradation to the proteasome and by removing activating K63-ubiquitin from other proteins
19 of the pathway such as NEMO (IKK γ), A20 acts as a negative regulator of inflammation in a
20 negative regulatory loop. It also suppresses the activation of the MAP kinases (MAPK) and
21 downregulate the activation of the NLRP3 inflammasome (Catrysse et al. 2014). Therefore, the
22 systemic inflammatory manifestations of HA20 result from the insufficient suppression of NF-
23 κ B, MAPK and NLRP3 activity in immune cells, especially in myeloid cells. A20 is also
24 abundantly expressed in B cells, where it inhibits the NF- κ B pathway, and raises the signaling
25 threshold required for B cell proliferation and survival (Das et al. 2018). As a result, A20-
26 deficient B cells are hyper-responsive to activating stimuli and susceptible to loss of tolerance
27 and to develop autoimmune diseases (Das et al. 2018).

28 To date, the phenotypic spectrum of HA20 remains unsettled and the understanding of
29 pathogenesis incomplete. Our objective was to summarize the current knowledge on the
30 genetic, pathophysiology and clinical features of HA20 through a systematic literature review
31 since the description of the disease.

1 Results

2 1/ Genetics and pathogenesis

3 Eighty-four different variants have been described including premature truncating codon and
4 missense variants (Figure 1.A). A large proportion of the 177 patients had variants impacting
5 the N-terminal OTU domain (n=92 patients, 52.3%), 47.8% of them being stop-gained (n=44)
6 and 28.3% frameshift mutants (n=26). Other patients had variants lying in the C-terminal
7 domain of A20, composed of 7 zinc-finger domains, (n=68 patients, 38.4 %), with mostly stop-
8 gain, frameshift or splice variants (69.1%) (Supplementary table 2). A deletion of the whole
9 *TNFAIP3* gene was described in 8 patients, including 7 for which deletion comprised
10 surrounding genes, ranging from 236kb to 13.3MB. Two patients inherited HA20 from a parent
11 with low-frequency gonadal mosaicism. Both were asymptomatic and the frequency of mutant
12 allele was 10.06% and 16.7% (Kadowaki et al. 2018). Five patients displayed additional
13 variants in other genes: 3 displayed a class IV *MEFV*, one unclassified IL-36RN variant, and
14 one patient a complex genotype with variants in *VPS13B*, *PIK3R1* and *NFAT5* (Horita et al.
15 2019; Liang et al. 2019; Niwano et al. 2022). Of note, in this cohort, only 23.2% of the variants
16 have been tested in an ectopic expression system, 47.6% of the missense variants and 15.6% of
17 the mutations giving rise to an early stop codon (Supplementary Table 3).

18

19 2/ Epidemiology

20 HA20 was first described in 2016 as a new monogenic Behcet's disease (BD) and has finally
21 evolved to be considered as a distinct entity. As of August 2023, after eliminating duplicates,
22 177 cases with sufficient clinical data to be included in the review were identified. (Figure 1.B).
23 Ethnicity was described in 26 patients (14%) including Chinese Han (n=16), Hispanic patients
24 (n=3), Turk (n=2), African American, Ashkenazi (n=1, each). Country of origin was indicated
25 in 51 patients (Great Britain, Japan (n=27), China (n=15), Italia (n=4), Turkey (n=3),
26 Pakistani/Indian (n=2), Great-Britain and Spain (n=1, each)). Finally, eastern European origin
27 was suggested in 26 patients (Caucasian (n=14), European American (n=10), White (n=2)).
28 Information was incomplete for 74 patients (40%). We classified patients in 4 categories: West
29 Asia (Turkish and Saudi patients, n=6), East Asia (Chinese, Chinese Han, Japanese patients,
30 n=58) and Europe (Caucasian, European American, White patients, n=32), and South Asia
31 (Pakistani/Indian patients, n=2). Statistical analyses compared group with ≥ 5 patients
32 (supplementary table 3). Patients from West Asia were 2-3 times more likely to suffer from

1 genital ulcers ($p=0.03$), autoimmunity and thyroiditis ($p<0.001$) than their counterparts.
2 Moreover, Skin features were more frequent in European patients. Finally, patients from West
3 Asia presented with fever twice as frequently than both those from Europe and East Asia
4 ($p<0.01$).

5 Female to male ratio in published patients is 1.1:1 (108 women, 94 men). First symptoms
6 occurred in childhood or teenage years in 132/141 patients (94%) with a median age of 3 years
7 old [0-17]. HA20 debuted in adulthood in 9 patients, with a median age of 20 years old [18-35]
8 (Duan et al. 2019; Harris et al. 2018; He et al. 2020; Horita et al. 2019; Niwano et al. 2022;
9 Tian et al. 2022).

10

11 **3/ Clinical features (Table 1 and Figure 1.c)**

12 Overall, HA20 is a multi-systemic disease. In 27 patients, Mucosal ulcers (including 9 with
13 genital ulcer), fever and/or lymphadenopathies were the only symptoms. Besides, 46 Patients
14 exhibited a single organ involvement. Finally, more than one organ was affected in 100 patients,
15 in addition to general and mucosal features.

16 *A. Fever*

17 Half of HA20 patients exhibit fever during the course of the disease ($n=93$). In most cases
18 ($n=80$), it consisted of periodic episodes of fever, which lasted for a median duration of 5 days.
19 The duration is variable and goes from 24 hours to 14 days. Fever attacks were not cyclic and
20 may occur several times a month or once a year. In 16 patients, the disease manifested as a
21 protracted fever that required anti-inflammatory treatment to resolve (Aslani et al. 2022; Jo et
22 al. 2022; Kadowaki et al. 2018; Kim et al. 2020; Lawless et al. 2018; Li et al. 2019; Liu et al.
23 2023; Ohnishi et al. 2017; Shaheen et al. 2021; Tian et al. 2022; Tsuchida et al. 2019). These 2
24 types of fever episodes may coexist in the same patient (Jo et al. 2022; Kadowaki et al. 2018;
25 Kim et al. 2020; Lawless et al. 2018; Shaheen et al. 2021; Tian et al. 2022; Tsuchida et al.
26 2019).

27

28 *B. Mucosal ulcers*

29 Mucosal ulcers are a hallmark of the disease and were present in 129 patients (73%). They can
30 appear with or without inflammatory/febrile episodes. Mouth ulcers resemble common benign
31 ulcers, although extensive stomatitis have been reported. In one of the first description,

1 Aeschlimann *et al* described scarring mouth ulcers in a cohort of 16 patients, however it was
2 never described afterwards. Therefore, scarring ulcers does not seem to be a necessary feature
3 of HA20.

4 More than a third of HA20 patients have displayed genital ulcers during the course of the
5 disease (n=63), which can occur as early as in infancy. They are significantly more frequent in
6 females than in males (48 vs 15 patients, p=0.004). Precise localization and characteristics were
7 not described. Genital ulcerations have been described in 6 patients without mouth ulcers.

8

9 *C. Gastrointestinal manifestations*

10 Gastrointestinal involvements affected 81 patients (46%). They include abdominal pain (48
11 patients), diarrhea (41 patients) and bloody stool (21 patients). Two main phenotypes emerge
12 from gut involvements: 29 patients exhibited isolated or multiple GI ulcers (Aeschlimann *et al.*
13 2018; Berteau *et al.* 2019; Chen *et al.* 2020a; Deshayes *et al.* 2021; Dong *et al.* 2019; Dong *et al.*
14 *et al.* 2019; Duncan *et al.* 2018; El Khouri *et al.* 2023; He *et al.* 2020; Jiang *et al.* 2022; Kadowaki
15 *et al.* 2021a; Kadowaki *et al.* 2018; Li *et al.* 2019; Liang *et al.* 2019; Liang *et al.* 2019; Mitsunaga
16 *et al.* 2022; Ohnishi *et al.* 2017; Sato *et al.* 2018; Shimizu *et al.* 2020; Suri *et al.* 2021; Taniguchi
17 *et al.* 2021; Tian *et al.* 2022; Tsuchida *et al.* 2019; Uchida *et al.* 2020; Wakatsuki *et al.* 2023;
18 Yan *et al.* 2021; Zanatta *et al.* 2022; Zhang *et al.* 2022; Zhang *et al.* 2022; Zheng *et al.* 2018;
19 Zou *et al.* 2020), while 17 patients displayed definite colitis, including 14 who also presented
20 GI ulcers (Chen *et al.* 2020a; He *et al.* 2020; Kadowaki *et al.* 2018; Shiraki *et al.* 2021b; Suri *et al.*
21 *et al.* 2021; Taniguchi *et al.* 2021; Tsuchida *et al.* 2019; Uchida *et al.* 2020; Yan *et al.* 2021; Ye *et al.*
22 *et al.* 2017; Zanatta *et al.* 2022; Zheng *et al.* 2018; Zou *et al.* 2020). This phenotype occurs in
23 significantly younger patients (6 months vs 3 years, p=0.02). It developed before the age of 6
24 in all but one patient and can therefore be classified as Very-Early Onset Inflammatory Bowel
25 Disease. The whole gastrointestinal tract can be affected by ulcers and were described in the
26 colon in 22 cases (Chen *et al.* 2020a; Dong *et al.* 2019; El Khouri *et al.* 2023; He *et al.* 2020;
27 Jiang *et al.* 2022; Mitsunaga *et al.* 2022; Ohnishi *et al.* 2017; Shimizu *et al.* 2020; Suri *et al.*
28 2021; Taniguchi *et al.* 2021; Tian *et al.* 2022; Tsuchida *et al.* 2019; Uchida *et al.* 2020;
29 Wakatsuki *et al.* 2023; Yan *et al.* 2021; Zanatta *et al.* 2022; Zhang *et al.* 2022; Zheng *et al.*
30 2018), the stomach and/or duodenum in 9 cases (Dong *et al.* 2019; Sato *et al.* 2018; Tian *et al.*
31 2022; Tsuchida *et al.* 2019; Zheng *et al.* 2018) and the small bowel in 6 cases (Deshayes *et al.*
32 2021; He *et al.* 2020; Kadowaki *et al.* 2021a; Suri *et al.* 2021; Tian *et al.* 2022). In 4 patients,

1 ulcers were restricted to the upper gastrointestinal tract (Dong et al. 2019; Kadowaki et al.
2 2021a; Ohnishi et al. 2017; Sato et al. 2018; Zhang et al. 2022). There can be findings of gastritis
3 (4 patients). Endoscopic findings of patients with colitis could be compatible with ulcerative
4 colitis (UC) in 2 patients with rectal and descending colon ulcers (Kadowaki et al. 2018;
5 Taniguchi et al. 2021). Moreover, 6 other patients exhibited histological features that could
6 suggest UC, including crypt atrophy, cryptitis, neutrophil infiltration and crypt abscesses,
7 although anatomical distribution of the lesions went against UC (Chen et al. 2020a; Shimizu et
8 al. 2020; Taniguchi et al. 2021; Zanatta et al. 2022; Zheng et al. 2018; Zou et al. 2020). In 33
9 patients with GI ulcers with or without colitis, endoscopic investigations could suggest Crohn's
10 disease, although detailed data would be needed to properly classify patients. Histological
11 analyses revealed inflammatory infiltrate of neutrophils, lymphocytes and eosinophils, as well
12 as tissue granulation. Granuloma were described in 2 patients (Mitsunaga et al. 2022; Wu et al.
13 2021).

14 Perianal inflammation affected 27 patients (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Franco-Jarava et al. 2018;
15 Girardelli et al. 2021; Hori et al. 2019; Jiang et al. 2022; Jo et al. 2022; Kadowaki et al. 2018;
16 Li et al. 2019; Liu et al. 2023; Rossi et al. 2022; Shimizu et al. 2020; Taniguchi et al. 2021;
17 Tian et al. 2022; Tsuchida et al. 2019; Zhang et al. 2022; Zheng et al. 2018; Zhou et al. 2016;
18 Zou et al. 2020). It included peri-anal ulcers, fistulae and abscesses. It was significantly more
19 frequent in men (17 vs 10 patients, $p=0.01$). Fifteen of them displayed associated GI ulcers and
20 could be classified as IBD.

21 Only 2 patients exhibited isolated GI involvements: 48 displayed joint ($n=13$), skin ($n=18$) or
22 both ($n=17$) involvements, while 17 other had history of recurrent fever, and 10 other organ
23 involvements (CNS, autoimmunity, immune deficiency). The systemic presentation of patients
24 with GI involvement, as well as the young age of onset, may distinguish HA20 from other forms
25 of IBD.

26 Liver involvement of HA20 has been reviewed by Deshayes *et al.* Since then and overall, it has
27 been described in 17 patients (10%) (Cao et al. 2023; Deshayes et al. 2021; Duncan et al. 2018;
28 Gans et al. 2020; He et al. 2020; Hori et al. 2019; Kim et al. 2020; Li et al. 2019; Rajamäki et
29 al. 2018; Schwartz et al. 2020; Takagi et al. 2018; Takagi et al. 2017; Taniguchi et al. 2021;
30 Yan et al. 2021; Zheng et al. 2018). The severity ranged from elevated liver enzymes to
31 cryptogenic cirrhosis with liver failure. However, the prevalence of subclinical liver disease

1 may be underreported. When specified, the histologic analyses revealed interface hepatitis with
2 lymphocyte infiltration and fibrosis.

3

4 *D. Skin manifestations*

5 Skin features were reported in 76 patients (43%). The most frequent manifestations were
6 pseudo/folliculitis, pustules, acne-like lesions and dermal abscesses of the face and the trunk
7 (29 patients, 16%). Seventeen patients (10%) displayed non-specific salmon or erythematous
8 rash, with skin biopsies showing a neutrophilic or lymphocytic infiltrate without sign of
9 vasculitis. Psoriasis, vitiligo, and urticaria were described in 4 patients each (Alhebshi et al.
10 2020; Berteau et al. 2019; Berteau et al. 2019; Harris et al. 2018; Kadowaki et al. 2018; Niwano
11 et al. 2022; Rajamäki et al. 2018; Zanatta et al. 2022) (cold urticaria in 3 of the same family,
12 and unspecified in 1). 2 patients had displayed local skin reactions after vaccination (Crustose
13 after BCG vaccine and severe swelling after pneumococcal unconjugated vaccine) (Berteau et
14 al. 2019; Hori et al. 2019). Malar rash and alopecia was described in 4 different patients, 3 of
15 which were diagnosed with SLE (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Shaheen et al. 2021; Zhang et al.
16 2022; Zhang et al. 2021). Panniculitis was described in 10 patients, including erythema
17 nodosum in 8 (Chen et al. 2020a; He et al. 2020; Kadowaki et al. 2018; Sato et al. 2018; Tian
18 et al. 2022; Tsuchida et al. 2019), necrotic panniculitis of the limbs in 1 (Zanatta et al. 2022)
19 and generalized erythematous wheal-like patches in 1 patient (Kim et al. 2020). Seven patients
20 exhibited a vasculitic rash, including 3 IgA vasculitis (Kadowaki et al. 2018; Viel et al. 2018;
21 Zhang et al. 2022), 2 unspecified vasculitic rashes (Papadopoulou et al. 2019; Zhang et al.
22 2022), 1 purpura (Aeschlimann et al. 2018) and 1 vasculitis of the extremities (Chen et al.
23 2020a). 3 Patients displayed eczema (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Wu et al. 2021) and 1 skin
24 xerosis (He et al. 2020). Finally, other manifestations included geographic tongue (n=2)
25 (Aeschlimann et al. 2018), pityriasis rosea (Aeschlimann et al. 2018), pernio-like lesion
26 (Tsuchida et al. 2019), Raynaud phenomenon (Tsuchida et al. 2019), toenail ulcer (Liu et al.
27 2023), aquagenic acrokeratoderma (Ohnishi et al. 2017), neutrophilic dermatosis (Franco-
28 Jarava et al. 2018) and Steven-Johnson syndrome (Aeschlimann et al. 2018)(n=1, each). Skin
29 features were never isolated, and were associated with joint and/or GI symptoms in most cases
30 (60 patients) or with autoimmunity, CNS or cardiovascular involvements in 14 other cases.
31 Overall, 44 patients had history of fever and 55 had associated mouth ulcers, including 29 with
32 genital ulcers.

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E. Auto-immunity

Autoantibodies and/or autoimmune disease (AID) have been described in 60 patients (34%). The most frequently described were anti-thyroid autoantibodies (28 patients, 16%) and manifested themselves as an authentic Hashimoto thyroiditis in 24 patients (14%). Thyroiditis was never isolated: 19 patients displayed associated mouth ulcers. The 9 remaining patients exhibited associated GI involvements, genital ulcers and/or recurrent fever.

SLE had been diagnosed prior to HA20 diagnosis or as an associated disease in 16 patients, 13 of whom completed the SLICC criteria for SLE (Petri et al. 2012) (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Duan et al. 2019; He et al. 2020; Kadowaki et al. 2021a; Kadowaki et al. 2018; Kim et al. 2020; Li et al. 2019; Miyamoto et al. 2022; Papadopoulou et al. 2019; Shaheen et al. 2021; Su et al. 2021; Zhang et al. 2022). Fourteen of them were women. Lupus nephritis was diagnosed in 7 patients (Li et al. 2019; Papadopoulou et al. 2019; Su et al. 2021; Zhang et al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2021). Median at first symptoms in patients diagnosed with SLE was 7.5 years old. Symptoms suggestive of SLE included arthritis/arthralgia (n=9), hemolytic anemia (n=4), lymphadenopathies (n=3), neuropsychiatric involvements (n=3), alopecia (n=2), malar rash (n=2) and Raynaud's phenomenon (n=1). However, history of recurrent fever was described in 9 patients, lung involvements in 3 and retinal vasculitis in 2. In 1 patient, diagnosis of SLE was questioned because of vertebral arthritis, sacroiliitis and pediatrics onset, leading to genetic analysis and HA20 diagnosis (Zhang et al. 2021).

Sixteen additional patients exhibited anti-nuclear antibodies, including five with anti-dsDNA antibodies and one with anti-extractable nuclear antigen antibodies (anti-RNP, anti-SSA/SSB, anti-scl70).

Immune cytopenia was described in 11 patients (6%), including autoimmune hemolytic anemia (9 patients)(Endo et al. 2022; Rossi et al. 2022; Su et al. 2021; Suri et al. 2021; Viel et al. 2018; Zhang et al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2021) and immune thrombocytopenia (4 patients)(Alhebshi et al. 2020; Endo et al. 2022; Viel et al. 2018; Wu et al. 2021). Immune cytopenia was associated with mouth/genital ulcers in 5 cases, fever in 3 cases, joint features and/or lymphadenopathies in 4 cases, and developmental delay in 3.

1 Five patients were diagnosed with 2 definite AIDs (Thyroiditis and type I diabetes n=2,
2 Thyroiditis and haemolytic anemia n=1, SLE and thyroiditis n=1, SLE and type I diabetes n=1),
3 and 7 families exhibited ≥ 2 AID in a single family.

4

5 *F. Joint and musculoskeletal manifestations*

6 Joint involvements were reported in 54 patients with HA20 (31%). Inflamed site was
7 unspecified in 35 cases, affected large joints (wrists, ankles, knees, hip) in 12 cases (Berateau et
8 al. 2019; El Khouri et al. 2023; Kim et al. 2020; Rossi et al. 2022; Tian et al. 2022; Tsuchida et
9 al. 2019; Zhang et al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2022; Zou et al. 2020) and small joints in 4 (Hands,
10 feet) (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Berateau et al. 2019; Rossi et al. 2022; Tian et al. 2022).
11 Sacroiliitis was described in 2 patients (Su et al. 2021; Zhang et al. 2021). Finally, 1 patient
12 exhibited unspecified osteomyelitis while diagnosed with chronic granulomatous disease
13 (CGD)(Suri et al. 2021). Among the patients with arthritis/arthritis, none presented with
14 rheumatoid-arthritis specific antibodies (rheumatoid factor, anti-CCP antibodies), except for a
15 child with isolated sacroiliitis and rheumatoid factor (Su et al. 2021). Thirteen displayed anti-
16 nuclear antibodies, and eight of them additionally displayed anti-dsDNA antibodies and anti-
17 nuclear nuclear antigens (anti-ENA). Synovial fluid examination was not described. There has
18 been no description of destructive arthritis or joint deformity. Of the 54 patients with
19 involvement of the joints, 30 had GI involvement and 28 had skin features, which might
20 distinguish HA20 from more common rheumatic diseases. Moreover, 40 patients displayed
21 mouth ulcers, including 25 with genital ulcers.

22 *G. Lymphadenopathy*

23 Lymphadenopathies were described in 25 patients (14%) (Deshayes et al. 2021; Dong et al.
24 2019; Endo et al. 2022; Endo et al. 2020; Franco-Jarava et al. 2018; Hori et al. 2019; Jo et al.
25 2022; Kadowaki et al. 2021a; Kadowaki et al. 2018; Liu et al. 2023; Rossi et al. 2022; Shaheen
26 et al. 2021; Sun et al. 2022; Takagi et al. 2017; Tian et al. 2022; Tsuchida et al. 2019; Zhang et
27 al. 2022; Zou et al. 2020). They were located in the cervical area for 10 of them, the axillary
28 and popliteal area in 1 each, and generalized in 11. Two patients had a probable diagnosis of
29 autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome (ALPS) according to the 2010 diagnostic criteria
30 (Endo et al. 2022; Oliveira et al. 2010; Takagi et al. 2017). They both exhibited chronic
31 lymphadenopathies, elevated TCR $\alpha\beta$ + double-negative T cells and elevated serum FASL
32 levels. Genetic testing for mutations in ALPS-associated genes was inconclusive in both

1 patients, including *FAS*, *FASL*, *KRAS*, *NRAS*, *PRKCD*, *PI3KCD*, *CTLA4*. (Endo et al. 2020;
2 Takagi et al. 2017). Histological analyses of lymph nodes showed follicular hyperplasia with
3 increased numbers of neutrophils and lymphocytes or necrotizing adenitis.

4

5 *H. CNS manifestations*

6 Seventeen patients (10%) displayed a wide spectrum of CNS manifestations, which causative
7 relation to HA20 remains to be established.

8 Cerebral vessels were involved in four patients; 2 had small vessel vasculitis, and 2 had
9 unspecified stroke during childhood, one of which additionally displayed central venous
10 thrombosis (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; He et al. 2020).

11 Four patients had inflammatory CNS involvements, including two aseptic meningitis and
12 another unspecified neuroinflammation (Hori et al. 2019; Schwartz et al. 2020; Shaheen et al.
13 2021). Finally, 1 patient exhibited intracerebral calcifications and aseptic necrotizing
14 granulomatous mass lesions in the paracentral lobule and the thalamus with elevated expression
15 of interferon-stimulated genes (ISG) suggesting interferonopathy (Mulhern et al. 2019).

16 Five additional patients exhibited developmental disorder without cause (developmental delay
17 n=5, ADHD n=1, autism n=1) (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Franco-Jarava et al. 2018; Su et al.
18 2021; Sun et al. 2022; Viel et al. 2018; Wu et al. 2021). Interestingly, 3 of the 5 patients with
19 neurodevelopmental delay displayed large deletions of chromosome 6 (>5.5MB), therefore
20 these manifestations may not be caused by HA20.

21 The other manifestations were included Epilepsy (n=2), craniopharyngioma (n=1), Type II
22 Arnold-Chiari malformation (n=1), cerebral palsy due to neonatal cardiac arrest (n=1)(Duan et
23 al. 2019; Hori et al. 2019; Kadowaki et al. 2021a; Suri et al. 2021).

24

25 *I. Ophthalmologic manifestations*

26 Ocular involvements of HA20 have recently been reviewed by Maccora et al (Maccora et al.
27 2021). Since then and overall, they affected 13 patients. Uveitis was described in 8 of them
28 (anterior n=5, unspecified n=3) (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; El Khouri et al. 2023; Mulhern et al.
29 2019; Papadopoulou et al. 2019; Schwartz et al. 2020; Tian et al. 2022; Tsuchida et al. 2019)
30 and three displayed retinal vasculitis (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; He et al. 2020). Finally, 2 had
31 episcleritis and one had conjunctivitis, palpebral ulceration, and chorioretinitis, each (Berbeau
32 et al. 2019; El Khouri et al. 2023; Jiang et al. 2022; Mulhern et al. 2019; Ohnishi et al. 2017).

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J. Lung manifestations

Ten patients (6%), including 8 women, had lung involvements. It consisted in interstitial lung disease in 5 patients, one of which during the course of hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), and pulmonary nodules on CT imaging in 4 patients (Duncan et al. 2018; He et al. 2020; Hori et al. 2019; Li et al. 2019; Rajamäki et al. 2018; Yan et al. 2021; Zhang et al. 2022). One additional patient had bilateral pneumonia of unknown origin (Duan et al. 2019). Improvement after treatment was described in 6 patients. None progressed to lung fibrosis. Lung involvements were not isolated and were associated with mouth ulcers and/or autoimmunity in 6 patients each.

K. Cardiovascular manifestations

Cardiovascular manifestations were described in 14 patients (8%). Pericarditis was found in 5 patients, 3 of which were possibly not related to the immunological disease (infectious pericarditis, anasarca) (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Deshayes et al. 2021; Li et al. 2019; Zhang et al. 2022). Vascular involvements were rare (5 patients, 3%). Veinous involvements were present in 4 patients and included pulmonary embolism caused by catheter-related veinous thrombosis, bilateral lower limbs thrombophlebitis, superficial thrombophlebitis and cerebral venous thrombosis (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Berteau et al. 2019; He et al. 2020). All 4 patients displayed mouth ulcers and 3 of them (75%) qualified as Behçet's disorders according to the International Criteria for Behçet Disease (ICBD) (Disease (ITR-ICBD) et al. 2014). However, 3 had recurrent fever, 2 had GI and 2 lung involvements. Arterial involvements mostly affected the CNS (strokes n=2), although one patient was described with systemic polyarteritis nodosa-like vasculitis causing myocardial and kidney infarction as well as diffuse aneurisms (Niwano et al. 2022). Finally, 2 patients were described to have unspecified CNS vasculitis and 1 child to suffer from aortic valve insufficiency (Kadowaki et al. 2018).

L. Immunodeficiency

Nine patients (5%) were described to have definite immunodeficiency (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Dong et al. 2019; Gans et al. 2020; Rajamäki et al. 2018; Shaheen et al. 2021; Suri et al. 2021). Recurrent bacterial and/or chronic viral infections were described in 5 of them, including

1 recurrent atypical pneumonia, ear and urinary tract infections, chronic EBV and papillomatosis.
2 Immunological investigations revealed humoral deficiency in 5 patients (3%), Natural Killer
3 cell (NK) deficiency in 3 patients (2%) including 2 patients with combined immune deficiency.
4 Patients with humoral deficiency exhibited IgG subclass deficiency (n=5), low response to
5 pneumococcal vaccine (n=4), and B cell lymphopenia (n=3). Isolated IgG deficiency with
6 normal CD19 appeared in one patient after several years of treatment with hydroxychloroquine,
7 MMF, prednisone and rituximab for SLE and could be secondary to treatments (Shaheen et al.
8 2021). Finally, unspecified CGD was described in one patient (Suri et al. 2021). Three patients
9 required supplementation with intravenous immunoglobulin to reduce the number of infectious
10 episodes.

11 *M. Other*

12 Ten patients from seven families had short stature (height < third percentiles) (He et al. 2020;
13 Kim et al. 2020; Rossi et al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2021). Six (60%) had never
14 received corticosteroids before height evaluation. Two patients had evaluation of growth
15 hormone that were normal. Therefore, short stature could be a consequence of prolonged
16 systemic inflammation.

17 Two patients have been diagnosed with cancer; one patient with Hodgkin's lymphoma at the
18 age of 21 years old, who later was diagnosed with craniopharyngioma at age 33, and the other
19 one with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma at age 35 (Endo et al. 2022; Hori et al. 2019). Therefore,
20 this review does not support the hypothesis of a higher risk of cancer in HA20 patients
21 However, this result should be confirmed in cohort studies.

22 HLH was described in four patients. It was the first manifestation of HA20 in two of them,
23 which occurred very early in life, at age 3 and 4 months (Aslani et al. 2022). In two other
24 patients, HLH occurred 2 years after the onset of a systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA)-
25 like disease (Li et al. 2019; Sun et al. 2022). Whole exome sequencing was performed in all
26 patients, which revealed *TNFAIP3* mutations. The presence of mutations in HLH-related genes
27 was not detailed.

28 Three patients from 3 different families have been reported to have menstrual cycle anomalies,
29 including premature ovarian failure, late menarche and dysmenorrhea (Aeschlimann et al.
30 2018).

31

1 **4/ Complications and mortality**

2 Inflammatory (AA) amyloidosis has not yet been described as a complication of HA20. While
3 it may be explained by the young age of the patients described, the absence of AA amyloidosis
4 in other NF- κ B-mediated autoinflammatory disease could suggest a low risk (Nigrovic et al.
5 2020).

6 Death was reported in 5 patients (3%). In 4 of them, death was thought to be a complication of
7 HA20 and occurred before adulthood. One patient died of upper airway hemorrhage due to
8 tonsillar ulcerations and carotid artery erosion at age 8 (Aeschlimann et al. 2018). One patient
9 died of cerebral hemorrhage complicating HLH at age 4 (Aslani et al. 2022), one patient died
10 of cytokine storm after hematopoietic stem cell transplant at age 15 (Wu et al. 2021), and one
11 from of systemic inflammatory response syndrome (Sun et al. 2022). Finally, one adult patient
12 with mild symptoms died of unknown cause (Dong et al. 2019).

13 **5/ Genotype/phenotype correlation**

14 By comparing patients based on the type of variations (missense variants (n=41 (23.2%) vs.
15 ones leading to no or truncated form of A20 (pLOF), n=135 (76.3%)) we showed that pLOF
16 variants were more associated to bipolar aphtosis, gastrointestinal involvement and
17 autoimmunity (Supplementary Table 4, $p<0.005$). By splitting patients in two groups based on
18 the localization of the protein affected by the mutations (OTU domain (n=92) vs. the other
19 domains (n=85)), patients affected in the OTU domain had more genital aphtosis (47.4% in the
20 OTU group vs. 20%, $p<0.002$) and skin involvement (53.3% in the OTU group vs. 31.8%,
21 $p<0.01$) while the other had an enrichment in CNS involvement (16.5 % vs 4.3%, $p<0.02$)
22 (Supplementary Table 5).

23 We then performed a multiple correspondence analysis (MCA) on clinical variables and the
24 type of mutation (missense versus the other). By performing an unsupervised clustering (see
25 methods), we ended-up with 3 clusters (Figure 2). The supplementary table 5 shows the
26 repartition of the patients in each cluster with their clinical characteristics. Cluster 1 (n=108)
27 was driven by the over-representation of autoimmunity (n=51, 48.1%, $p<0.001$) and missense
28 variants ($p<0.02$). Cluster 2 (n=50) is driven by the presence of GI involvement (96%, $p<0.001$)
29 while patients in this group had less bipolar aphtosis than in cluster 3. Finally, patients in the
30 cluster 3 (n=19) had a high proportion of skin (89.5%) and joint involvement (84.2%) with
31 almost all of them having bipolar aphtosis and a high proporation of GI involvement
32 (Supplementary Table 6).

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6/ Biological findings

Inflammatory markers usually rise during flares, including leukocyte count and C-reactive protein (CRP). CRP was elevated in 54 patients (87% of patients for which it was reported), with a median of 62mg/L. CRP remained elevated outside of flares in 7 out of the 19 patients for which it was specified. Hypergammaglobulinemia was observed in 13 patients with a median of 26.3 g/l [14.3-31.1].

Expectedly, serum pro-inflammatory cytokines, including IL-1 β , IL-17, IL-8, IL-6 and TNF α , were elevated but were not systematically investigated.

Type I interferon signature was investigated in 21 patients from 6 different centers and was elevated in 17 of them. The score was reported in 9 patients. The median value was 880% of the respective laboratory normal values [382-1111]. The test was ordered before HA20 diagnosis in 3 patients; one with cerebral calcifications suggesting interferonopathy, one with colitis and panniculitis, and one with recurrent stomatitis. In 5 patients, it was ordered because of refractory HA20 with various manifestations including colitis, “neuroinflammation”, membranous nephropathy and inflammatory liver disease. Finally, 8 patients were included in a study aiming to describe ISG in HA20 patients. The disease of the three patients with normal interferon signature was quiescent. Therefore, more data is needed to determine the predictive value of this test.

7/ Diagnosis

The diagnosis of HA20 relies in the detection of a germline variant in the gene *TNFAIP3* that is rare in the public databases and predicted to be deleterious *in silico*. More importantly previously unknown variants should be tested *in vitro* for their inhibition capacity towards NF- κ B.

Previous diagnosis was described in 78 patients. Seventeen of them had received more than one diagnosis before HA20 diagnosis. Previous diagnoses included Behçet’s disease (33 patients), Periodic fever, aphthous stomatitis, pharyngitis, and adenitis/PFAPA (9 patients), juvenile Idiopathic arthritis (8 patients), recurrent stomatitis (6 patients), Crohn’s disease (6 patients), rheumatoid arthritis (5 patients) and connective tissue disease (3 patients). One patient was diagnosed with adult-onset still’s disease, Kikuchi-Fujimoto disease, rheumatic fever,

1 Kawasaki disease, familial Mediterranean fever, IgA nephropathy and unclassified
2 granulomatous neuroinflammatory disorder, respectively. Finally, 16 patients were diagnosed
3 with systemic lupus erythematosus, although it can be considered as an associated diagnosis
4 rather than a differential of HA20 (see autoimmunity).

5

6 **8/ Treatments**

7 To date, treatments in HA20 are not codified and are symptom oriented. The description of the
8 treatments and their effectiveness was heterogeneous, and it was not possible to draw any clear
9 conclusions. Treatments classified by predominant symptom and by therapeutic class are
10 presented below.

11 GI manifestations were treated according to the principles of IBD treatment, with heterogenous
12 responses (5-aminosalicylic acid n=9 (Bertheau et al. 2019; He et al. 2020; Kadowaki et al. 2018;
13 Li et al. 2019; Taniguchi et al. 2021; Tsuchida et al. 2019; Zheng et al. 2018), thalidomide n=13
14 (Chen et al. 2020a; He et al. 2020; Mitsunaga et al. 2022; Tian et al. 2022; Uchida et al. 2020;
15 Zhang et al. 2022; Zheng et al. 2018), TNF blockers (n=17) (Duncan et al. 2018; Girardelli et
16 al. 2021; He et al. 2020; Hori et al. 2019; Kadowaki et al. 2018; Li et al. 2019; Mitsunaga et al.
17 2022; Ohnishi et al. 2017; Shimizu et al. 2020; Uchida et al. 2020; Wu et al. 2021; Zanatta et
18 al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2022; Zheng et al. 2018; Zou et al. 2020).

19 Joint manifestations were mainly treated by conventional and biologic disease-modifying anti-
20 rheumatic drug (cDMARDS and bDMARDS) including methotrexate (n=12, effective in 3),
21 azathioprine (n=4), sulfasalazine (n=3), ciclosporine (n=1) and TNF- α inhibitors (n=5) (Bertheau
22 et al. 2019; Deshayes et al. 2021; El Khouri et al. 2023; He et al. 2020; Lawless et al. 2018; Li
23 et al. 2019; Ohnishi et al. 2017; Rossi et al. 2022; Shimizu et al. 2020; Su et al. 2021; Suri et
24 al. 2021; Tian et al. 2022; Tsuchida et al. 2019; Uchida et al. 2020; Zhang et al. 2022; Zheng et
25 al. 2018). Moreover, 3 patients received tofacitinib and 2 received tocilizumab with partial to
26 good results (Schwartz et al. 2020; Mulhern et al. 2019; Ohnishi et al. 2017; Kadowaki et al.
27 2018).

28 Corticosteroids and NSAIDs were used in 32 patients and were useful in on-demand treatment
29 of inflammatory attacks as well as alleviating auto-immune flares (Bertheau et al. 2019; Duan et
30 al. 2019; Duncan et al. 2018; El Khouri et al. 2023; Franco-Jarava et al. 2018; Girardelli et al.
31 2021; He et al. 2020; Kadowaki et al. 2021a; Kadowaki et al. 2018; Lawless et al. 2018; Li et

1 al. 2019; Mitsunaga et al. 2022; Mulhern et al. 2019; Ohnishi et al. 2017; Rossi et al. 2022; Su
2 et al. 2021; Tian et al. 2022; Tsuchida et al. 2019; Yan et al. 2021; Zanatta et al. 2022; Zhang
3 et al. 2022; Zheng et al. 2018).

4 Colchicine was used in 28 patients to relieve mucosal ulcers and inflammatory attacks, with
5 good response described in 10 patients; partial and/or transient in 4 patients, and ineffective in
6 5 patients (Bertheau et al. 2019; Debeljak et al. 2023; El Khouri et al. 2023; Hori et al. 2019;
7 Horita et al. 2019; Jiang et al. 2022; Jo et al. 2022; Kadowaki et al. 2021a; Kadowaki et al.
8 2018; Lawless et al. 2018; Mitsunaga et al. 2022; Niwano et al. 2022; Shimizu et al. 2020; Suri
9 et al. 2021; Taniguchi et al. 2021; Tsuchida et al. 2019; Uchida et al. 2020; Wakatsuki et al.
10 2023). Thalidomide was used in 5 patients for mouth ulcers with a partial or good response in
11 4 of them.

12 TNF-inhibitors were prescribed 29 patients, mainly for IBD (n=17), arthritis (n=5), liver
13 involvement (n=3), lung involvement (n=2), bipolar ulcer, SLE and vasculitis (n=1,
14 respectively). Efficacy was good in 11 patients, partial and/or transient in 3 patients, and
15 ineffective in 2 patients. Tocilizumab have been used in 4 patients for joint inflammation (n=2),
16 systemic inflammation and IBD (n=1, respectively) with partial to good response in 3 of them
17 (Kadowaki et al. 2018; Lawless et al. 2018; Ohnishi et al. 2017; Uchida et al. 2020). Other
18 treatments included mycophenolate mofetil (n=5) and methotrexate (n=14).

19 JAK inhibitors have been used with good efficacy in 6 patients to treat CNS involvements,
20 uveitis and polyarthritis, all of which had high ISG prior to treatment (Aeschlimann et al. 2018;
21 Mulhern et al. 2019; Schwartz et al. 2020).

22 Finally, four patients underwent hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT). Three had
23 allogenic HSCT because of organ-damage uncontrolled with immunosuppressive agents.
24 Complete chimerism was achieved in two patients with overall good outcome, despite the
25 development of anti-GAD neuropathy in one (Shiraki et al. 2021b; Wu et al. 2021). On the
26 contrary, one patient died of cytokine-mediated multi-organ injury a few hours after stem cell
27 infusion (Wu et al. 2021). One patient had autologous HSCT for SLE-like CNS vasculitis,
28 which allowed transient amelioration (Aeschlimann et al. 2018).

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30

31 **Discussion**

1 In this systematic literature review we describe the clinical presentation of the 177 patients with
2 HA20 from 94 families published. While the reported number of patients worldwide is small,
3 HA20 is probably more frequent than reported. First, several family members described in
4 paper were excluded because they had not undergone genetic testing while they had exhibited
5 symptoms that could suggest HA20. Moreover, *TNFAIP3* sequencing may not be available
6 worldwide. The diagnosis of sJIA or Behçet's disease in HA20 patients may not have been
7 reconsidered, especially if the disease is controlled with standard therapy. Finally, we can
8 suspect that many diagnosed patients with HA20 are not published because the variant is
9 already known and/or the clinical picture is similar to what is already described. While patients
10 were mainly originating from Asia and Europe, there is no evidence to suggest that HA20 may
11 have a geographical predominance, which is to be confirmed with the democratization of
12 sequencing techniques

13 The clinical spectrum of patients with HA20 is large and will probably broaden in the next few
14 years with the generalization of *TNFAIP3* study. The core symptoms of HA20 include mouth,
15 genital and gastrointestinal ulcerations, associated with unspecific joint manifestations and
16 acne-like skin disease. However, most organs can be affected with lower frequency (CNS,
17 lymph nodes, cardiovascular). Similarly, the severity of the disease ranges from asymptomatic
18 to death-threatening organ-involvements.

19 This review summarizes the clinical picture of HA20 patients, which will allow to give better
20 criteria to order genetic testing. Up to now, of the 75 variants referenced in the infevers database
21 (<https://infevers.umai-montpellier.fr/web/search.php?n=26>), only 19 are validated to be
22 pathogenic and the pathogenic classification remains to be validated for 56 variants. In this
23 review, it is noteworthy that 5 patients had concomitant variants in other genes, and 7 had a
24 genetic deletion comprising other genes than *TNFAIP3*. Therefore, the presence of clinical
25 symptoms unusual to HA20 in patients with *TNFAIP3* variant could suggest either another
26 variant in another gene or a complex mutation such as a large deletion of the chromosome 6.
27 Indeed, to date, there are no validated criteria for the diagnosis of HA20. It is confirmed upon
28 the discovery of a heterozygous loss-of-function mutation in the gene *TNFAIP3*. When the
29 variant has not been previously classified as pathogenic (new private mutation, mutation rarely
30 reported in a healthy population), functional analysis should be performed to confirm its
31 pathogenicity, especially when the mutation is a missense mutation. One way to evaluate the
32 mutated allele's ability to inhibit NF- κ B activity is by ectopically expressing the mutant in a
33 cell line capable of monitoring NF- κ B activity under various stimuli. If the mutated allele does

1 not hinder NF- κ B activity, similar to transfecting an empty vector plasmid, it can be classified
2 as a loss-of-function allele. It is worth noting that assessing the capacity of patient cells to
3 activate NF- κ B through various techniques is important but may not definitively establish the
4 mutation's role in *TNFAIP3* in the observed phenotype. A combination of both ectopic
5 expression and primary cell analysis is always preferable.

6 The familial segregation should fit with a dominantly inherited and highly penetrant disease.
7 Of note, 4 subjects included in this review were asymptomatic and *TNFAIP3* variant was
8 discovered upon the diagnosis of one of their relative, including 2 who displayed gonadal
9 mosaicism. This result questions the diagnosis of patients with missense variants in *TNFAIP3*
10 that are not classified as loss-of-function. Whether these variants act as a predisposing factor of
11 an immune disease is an open question, but they may not drive the disease on their own. Further
12 functional research could improve the robustness of these diagnoses.

13 The diagnosis of HA20 should be suspected upon the existence of mouth ulcers/stomatitis of
14 dominant inheritance that started early in life, especially when associated with typical skin
15 features, findings of IBD, or the occurrences of several AIDs in the family.

16 While symptoms usually begin in childhood, HA20 can also be suspected in late-onset AID. In
17 this series, first symptoms occurred during adulthood in 7% of patients. Moreover, patients with
18 “mild” symptoms such as mouth ulcers and acne may not report any symptoms because they
19 have become so accustomed to it. In the end, unless there is familial history of HA20, the
20 clinical features of HA20 may not be specific enough to order a specific sanger genetic testing
21 of *TNFAIP3* but rather a NGS panel of AID comprising *TNFAIP3* or a whole-exome sequencing
22 followed by a list-of-genes-supervised analysis. It is noteworthy that familial history may be
23 lacking because of *de novo* mutations. However, genetic testing of both asymptomatic parents
24 should be done as gonadal mosaicism is possible and could impact genetic counselling.

25 We looked for a genotype-phenotype correlation. Although most patients will present with oral
26 aphthosis or fever that is not depending on the type of mutation (pLOF or missense for instance),
27 pLOF variants were more associated to bipolar aphthosis, GI involvement and autoimmunity.
28 This could suggest that the level of loss-of-inhibition of NF- κ B by missense variants is less
29 severe than pLOF ones. An unsupervised classification of patients in clusters was also
30 performed to see if a pattern of characteristics may drive any groups. Interestingly, it ended
31 with three clusters, one of them being overrepresented with autoimmunity and less bipolar
32 aphthosis, the two others being different by the presence of skin and joint manifestations (mainly

1 in cluster 3) and the presence of a GI involvement (more represented in cluster 2). Although the
2 percentage of variance in the dataset explained by this multiple correspondence analysis (MCA)
3 is weak this analysis emphasizes the variability of clinical presentation in HA20. Beyond the
4 scope of this work, it would be interesting to see if patients of these 3 clusters may respond
5 differently to treatments. Importantly, it should be noted that the majority of the reported
6 variants have not been tested in an ectopic expression system to precisely characterize whether
7 they are hypomorphic or not. While variants leading to early stop codons are highly predicted
8 to be deleterious, missense variants in *TNFAIP3* that have not been tested in vitro should be
9 approached with caution before definitively classifying them as causing HA20. Our results
10 differ from those of Chen et al, who had found a higher frequency of musculoskeletal disorders
11 in patient with variants disrupting both OTU and ZNF domains, and no difference for genital
12 ulcers, skin and CNS involvements. This discrepancy can be explained by the higher number
13 of patients included in our series (88 vs 177 patients), and the inclusion of all patients with
14 *TNFAIP3* variants, counting those with concomitant gene variant. As in other monogenic
15 autoimmunity and autoinflammation, the wide variability of clinical expression in HA20 is
16 challenging, including within the same variant or even in the same family. This strongly
17 suggests that additional factors are at play in the onset of the clinical phenotype that are not
18 elucidated yet, such as microbial triggers, microbiota modifications, second somatic events, and
19 epigenetic modifications.

20 In 2021, Kadowaki compared the clinical presentation of patients from inside and outside East
21 Asia. They had found that patients from East Asia displayed more recurrent fever and less
22 autoimmune diseases than patients from outside of East Asia, which is confirmed by our work
23 (Kadowaki et al. 2021b). Several additional clinical items differed between geographical
24 regions, including thyroiditis, skin features and genital ulcers although type of mutations did
25 not differ between groups. These analyses are limited by the incompleteness and/or ambiguity
26 of ethnic descriptions in the source articles, which resulted in the exclusion of 81 patients.

27 Men and women may exhibit different clinical symptoms of HA20. Unlike in Behçet's disease,
28 women are significantly more at risk to develop genital ulcers (Cansu et al. 2016). On the other
29 hand, men are more likely to suffer from both perineal inflammation and gastrointestinal tract
30 ulcers. It is important to note that there are twice as many women described with HA20 than
31 men. Several factors may explain this finding. First, men may have milder diseases for which
32 they do not seek medical advice. Indeed, women exhibit twice as much genital ulcers and their
33 painfulness could urge to consult. Moreover, the occurrence of genital ulcers may lead to further

1 investigations as differential diagnoses are limited (Mauskar et al. 2020). On the contrary, males
2 harbor more perianal inflammation, which is a frequent conditions in the general population,
3 therefore raising less suspicion of underlying systemic disease (Sahnan et al. 2017).

4 This work has several limitations intrinsic to its retrospective nature. First, the richness of
5 clinical data were highly heterogenous between studies. Little is known on variant penetrance
6 in HA20. Moreover, as previously mentioned, variants' pathogenicity was not established in
7 76.8% of cases. Therefore, we have chosen to include all patients with a variant in *TNFAIP3*
8 gene regardless of their symptoms, including asymptomatic patients. Future work should
9 investigate the significance of untested variants to increase the phenotypic accuracy of HA20.
10 Finally, multiple patients/families were reported in several different papers. However, efforts
11 were made to include all available data for each patient and to ensure that no patient was
12 included twice.

13 Elements of pathogenesis need to be clarified as HA20 presentation may drastically differ
14 between patients. While we have provided insight on a genotype/phenotype correlation in
15 HA20, the understanding of the specific involved immune pathways is needed to guide
16 therapeutic decisions. While strong systemic inflammation could suggest the use of cytokine
17 blockers (Lawless et al. 2018; Ohnishi et al. 2017), the presence of a high ISG could suggest
18 the use of JAK inhibitors (Miyamoto et al. 2022; Mulhern et al. 2019; Schwartz et al. 2020).
19 Patients with HA20 had received several lines of treatments that were not necessarily described
20 in the papers and therefore the range and efficacy of these treatments requires further
21 descriptions, as clinical trials are unlikely to take place in a short future.

22

1 **Methods**

2 A systematic review of clinical studies published in the medical literature was conducted to
3 retrieve case reports and case series reporting patients with TNFAIP3 mutation. This study was
4 not reviewed by an ethics committee, as all data used in this study were taken from previously
5 published articles.

6 Search strategy and selection process

7 MEDLINE was searched through PUBMED and EMBASE using the PRISMA guidelines (6)
8 from the first description of the disease in 2016 until August 2023, with no language restriction
9 or publication date limit. The search strategy included the following search terms: (“A20
10 haploinsufficiency”) and (“TNFAIP3”). All articles describing patients with a mutation of
11 TNFAIP3 and their clinical symptoms were included. Untested obligate carriers were not
12 included. Only full-text articles in English were included. Information was extracted on
13 characteristics of trial participants, including sex, ethnicity and/or geographic origin, family
14 history, age at disease onset and diagnosis, mutational status, clinical and biological
15 characteristics. Ethnicity and geographical origin were extracted when mentioned in the
16 original article. When unspecified, patients were classified according to country of publication.
17 Geographical origin was classified as America, Europe, East Asia, West Asia and South Asia.

18 Articles were checked to detect patients described in duplicates to ensure all information
19 published on a patient was considered. We identified for inclusion in this review 68 articles
20 (Aeschlimann et al. 2018; Alhebshi et al. 2020; Aslani et al. 2022; Berteau et al. 2019; Cao et
21 al. 2023; Chen et al. 2020a; Debeljak et al. 2023; Deshayes et al. 2021; Dong et al. 2019; Duan
22 et al. 2019; Duncan et al. 2018; El Khouri et al. 2023; Endo et al. 2022; Endo et al. 2020;
23 Franco-Jarava et al. 2018; Gans et al. 2020; Girardelli et al. 2021; Harris et al. 2018; Hautala et
24 al. 2020; He et al. 2020; Hori et al. 2019; Horita et al. 2019; Imai et al. 2020; Jiang et al. 2022;
25 Jo et al. 2022; Kadowaki et al. 2021a; Kadowaki et al. 2018; Kim et al. 2020; Lawless et al.
26 2018; Li et al. 2019; Liang et al. 2019; Liu et al. 2023; Mitsunaga et al. 2022; Miyamoto et al.
27 2022; Mulhern et al. 2019; Niwano et al. 2022; Ohnishi et al. 2017; Papadopoulou et al. 2019;
28 Rajamäki et al. 2018; Rossi et al. 2022; Sato et al. 2018; Schwartz et al. 2020; Shaheen et al.
29 2021; Shigemura et al. 2016; Shimizu et al. 2020; Shiraki et al. 2021b; Shiraki et al. 2021a; Su
30 et al. 2021; Sun et al. 2022; Suri et al. 2021; Suzuki et al. 2017; Takagi et al. 2018; Takagi et
31 al. 2017; Taniguchi et al. 2021; Tian et al. 2022; Tsuchida et al. 2019; Uchida et al. 2020; Viel
32 et al. 2018; Wakatsuki et al. 2023; Wu et al. 2021; Yan et al. 2021; Ye et al. 2017; Zanatta et

1 al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2021; Zheng et al. 2018; Zhou et al. 2016; Zou et al.
2 2020) describing 177 patients (supplementary figure 1). Patients are detailed in supplementary
3 table 1)

4 Statistical analysis

5 The categorical variables were analyzed by using the chi-square test or Fisher's exact
6 probability test as appropriate. Continuous variables in two or three groups were compared
7 using the Mann-Whitney test or the Kruskal-Wallis test, respectively. The significance level
8 was set a $p < 0.05$ for all analyzed data. Statistical analysis was performed with the online
9 application EasyMedStat (version 3.21.5 ; www.easymedstat.com). Clustering analysis are
10 described in supplementary files.

11 Data availability statement

12 The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the
13 article and its supplementary materials.

14

1 **Conflict of interest**

2 The Authors declare no conflict of interest concerning this study.

3 **Author contributions**

4 Conceptualization: IE, SGL

5 Methodology: IE, SGL

6 Data Curation, IE, QR

7 Formal analysis: IE, QR

8 Writing - Original Draft: IE, QR

9 Writing - Review & Editing: IE, QR, GB, VH, FRL, SGL

10 Supervision: SGL

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28

29

1 Table 1. Main features of the 177 HA20 patients.

	n=177 (%) or median [range]
Women	109 (62)
Age at publication	15 [1-71]
Age at onset (years)	4 [0-35]
Diagnostic delay (years)	7 [0-55]
Dominantly inherited mutation	93/112 (82)
General	
Fever	93 (54)
Lymphadenopathy	25 (14)
Mucosal inflammation	
Mouth ulcers	123 (69)
Genital ulcers	63 (36)
Gastrointestinal involvement	
Abdominal pain	48 (28)
Diarrhea	41 (23)
Bloody stool	21 (12)
Gastrointestinal tract ulcer	43 (25)
Perianal inflammation	27 (15)
Liver involvements	17 (10)
Skin features	
Pseudofolliculitis/Acne/Pustulosis	29 (16)
Rash	17 (10)
Panniculitis	10 (6)
Auto-immunity	
Thyroiditis	24 (14)
Lupus	16 (9)
Immune cytopenia	11 (6)
Type I diabetes	6 (3)
Arthralgia/Arthritis	
	54 (31)
Central nervous system involvement	
	17 (10)
Cardiovascular involvement	
Pericardial effusion	5 (3)
Venous thromboembolism	4 (2)
Vasculitis	3 (2)

Eye involvement	13 (8)
Anterior uveitis	8 (5)
Retinal vasculitis	3 (2)
Lung involvement	10 (6)
Immune deficiency	9 (5)
Elevated CRP during flares	54/63 (86)
C-reactive protein (mg/L) in flare	51 [0-450]

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1 **Figure legends**

2

3 **Figure 1. Characteristics of HA20 patients described.**

4 (a) Schematic representation of reported mutations in *TNFAIP3* gene. (b) Geographic
5 distribution (c) Main clinical features.

6

7 **figure 2. Hierarchical clustering of HA20 patients based on their characteristics (multiple
8 correspondence analysis, MCA).**

9 Figure 2: Hierarchical clustering of HA20 patients based on their characteristics (multiple
10 correspondance analysis, MCA)

11 (a) Hierarchical tree (dendogram) indicating how patients (x-axis, n=159) are clustered in three
12 groups (vertical lines). From left to right : cluster 1, 2 and 3.

13 (b) Heatmap showing the frequency of each characteristic among each cluster

14 (c) Factorial map where each dot represents one patient (n=159), colored based on the cluster
15 they belong to (MCA analysis)

16

17 **Table legends**

18 **Table 1. Demographics and clinical features of the 177 HA20 patients included**

19 (a) Map of described mutations of TNFAIP3. (b) Geographical distribution of HA20 patients
20 reported. (c) Representation of most frequent involvements in HA20.

21 Supplementary files.

22 Supplementary methods. **clustering analyses**

23 Supplementary figure 1. **Prisma flowchart.**

24 We identified for inclusion in this review 68 articles describing 177 patients. The search of
25 Medline database provided 4025 articles. After adjusting for duplicates, 1588 remained. Of
26 these, 1474 were discarded after reviewing the title because they were irrelevant. Forty-two
27 citations were excluded because they were reviews, letter to the editor or replies. The full texts
28 of the remaining 72 citations were examined in more details. Four reports were excluded
29 because the clinical data were not detailed. Patients described in duplicate (n=36) and triplicate
30 (n=4) were included once. Finally, 177 patients from 66 reports were included.

- 1 Supplementary Table 1. Detailed characteristics of the 177 patients included
- 2 Supplementary Table 2. Type of variation and domain affected in HA20 patients
- 3 Supplementary Table 3. Clinical features according to reported ethnicity and sex
- 4 Supplementary Table 4. Clinical features according to type of variation in *TNFAIP3* (pLOF vs
- 5 Missense)
- 6 Supplementary Table 5. Clinical features according to A20 domain affected (OTU vs non-OTU)
- 7 Supplementary Table 6. Clinical features according to clusters.
- 8

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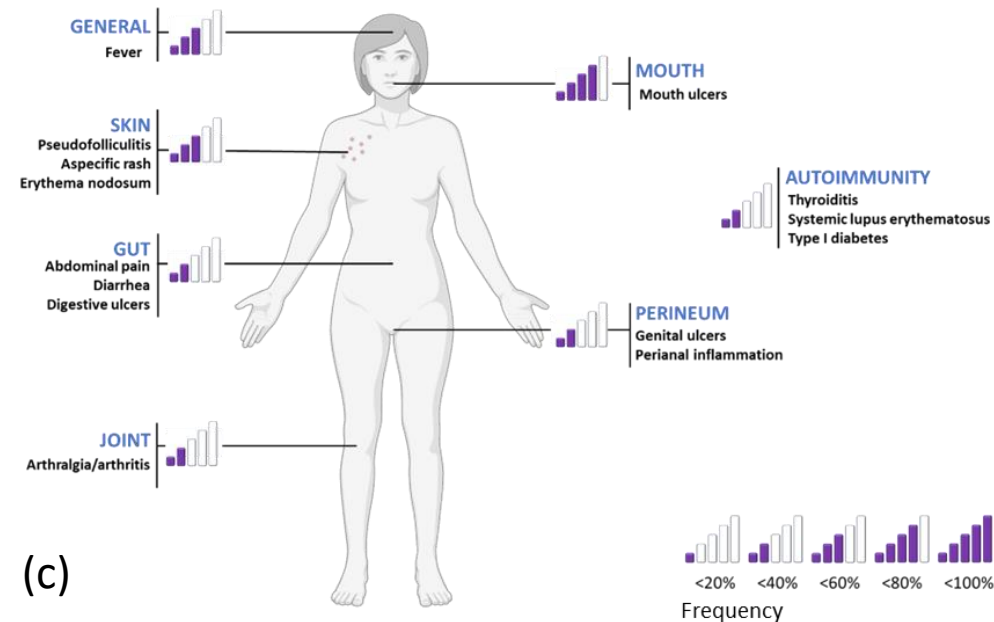
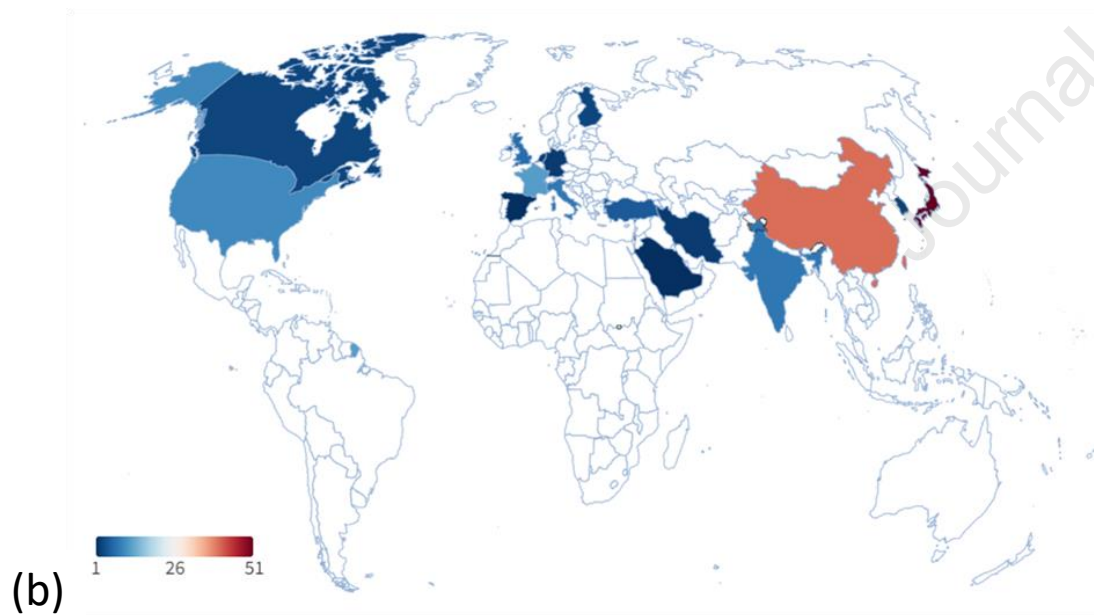
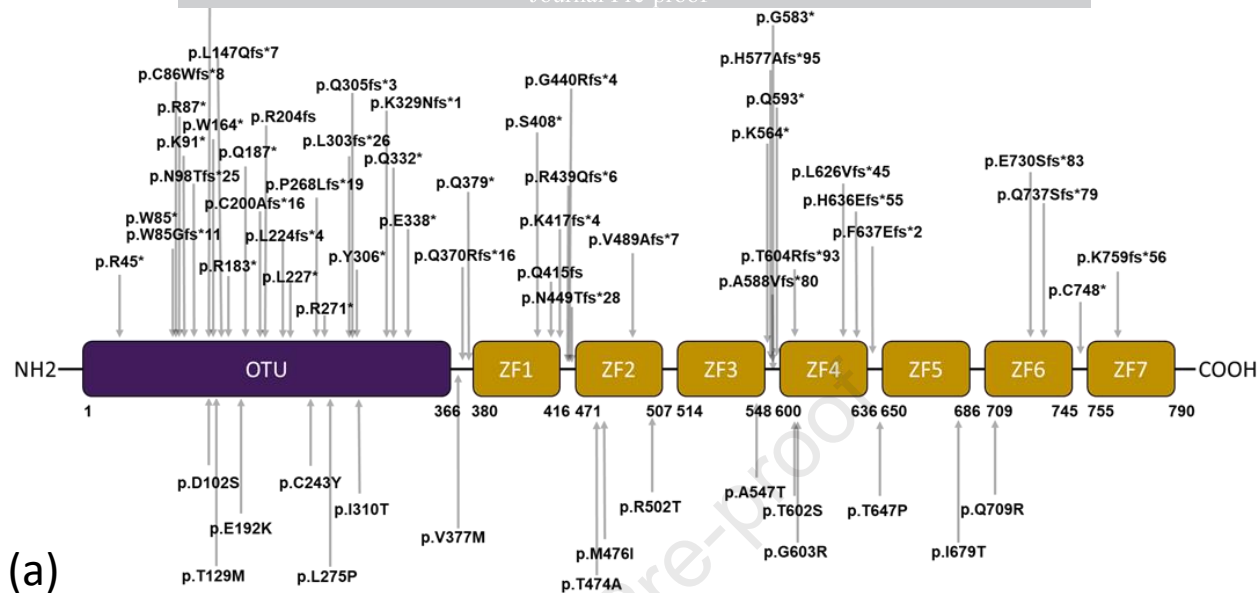


Figure 1. Characteristics of included patients with A20 haploinsufficiency (HA20)

(a) Map of described mutations of TNFAIP3. (b) Geographical distribution of HA20 patients reported. (c) Representation of most frequent involvements in HA20.

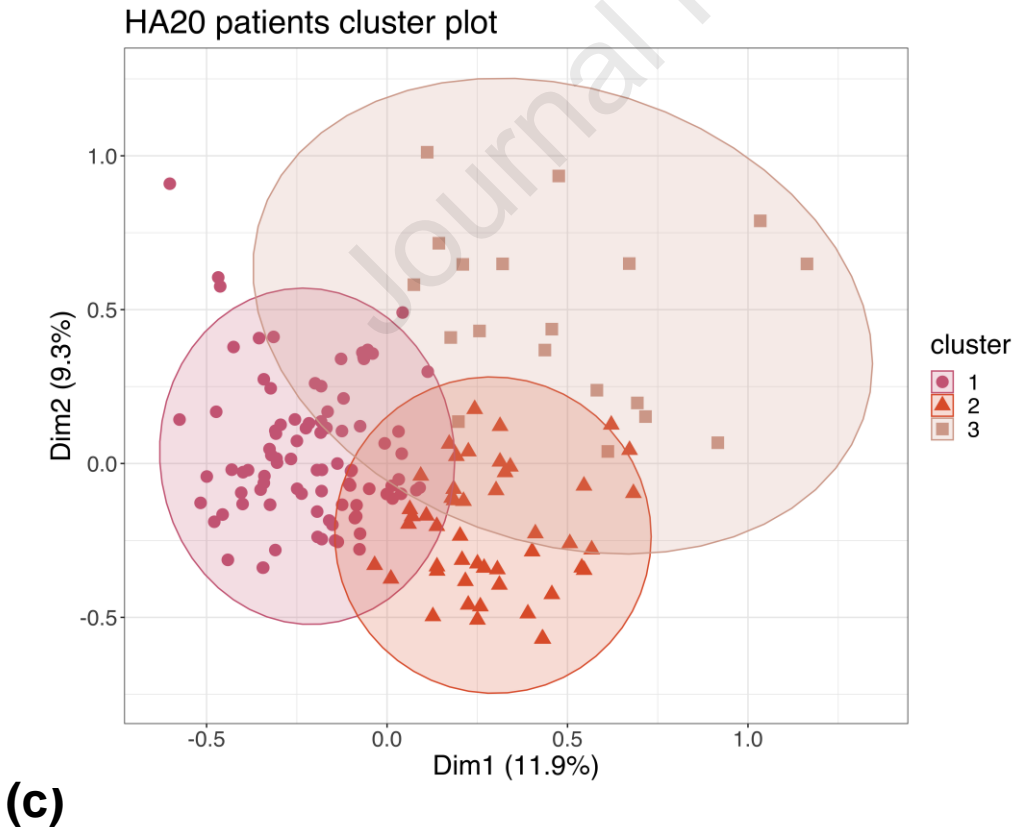
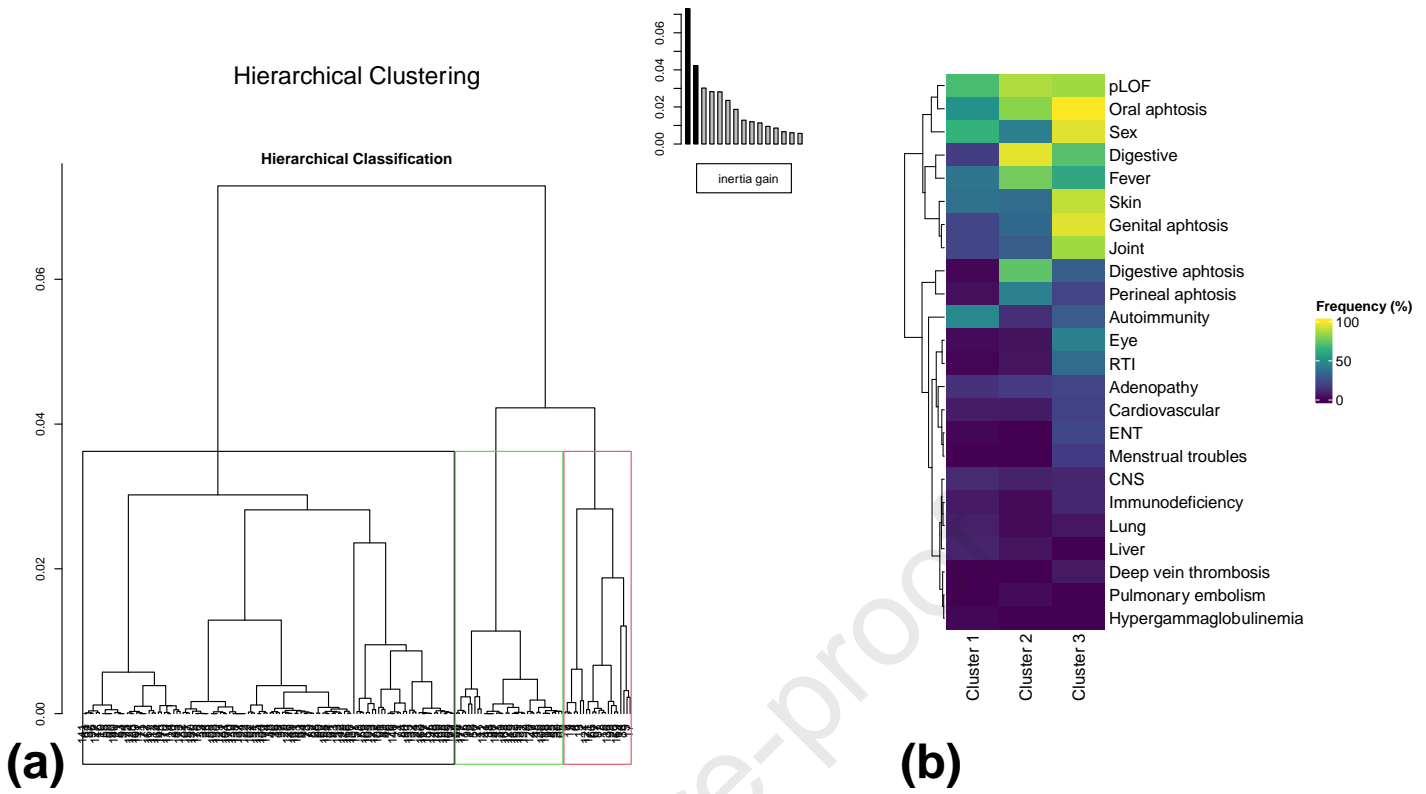


Figure 2: Hierarchical clustering of HA20 patients based on their characteristics (multiple correspondence analysis, MCA)

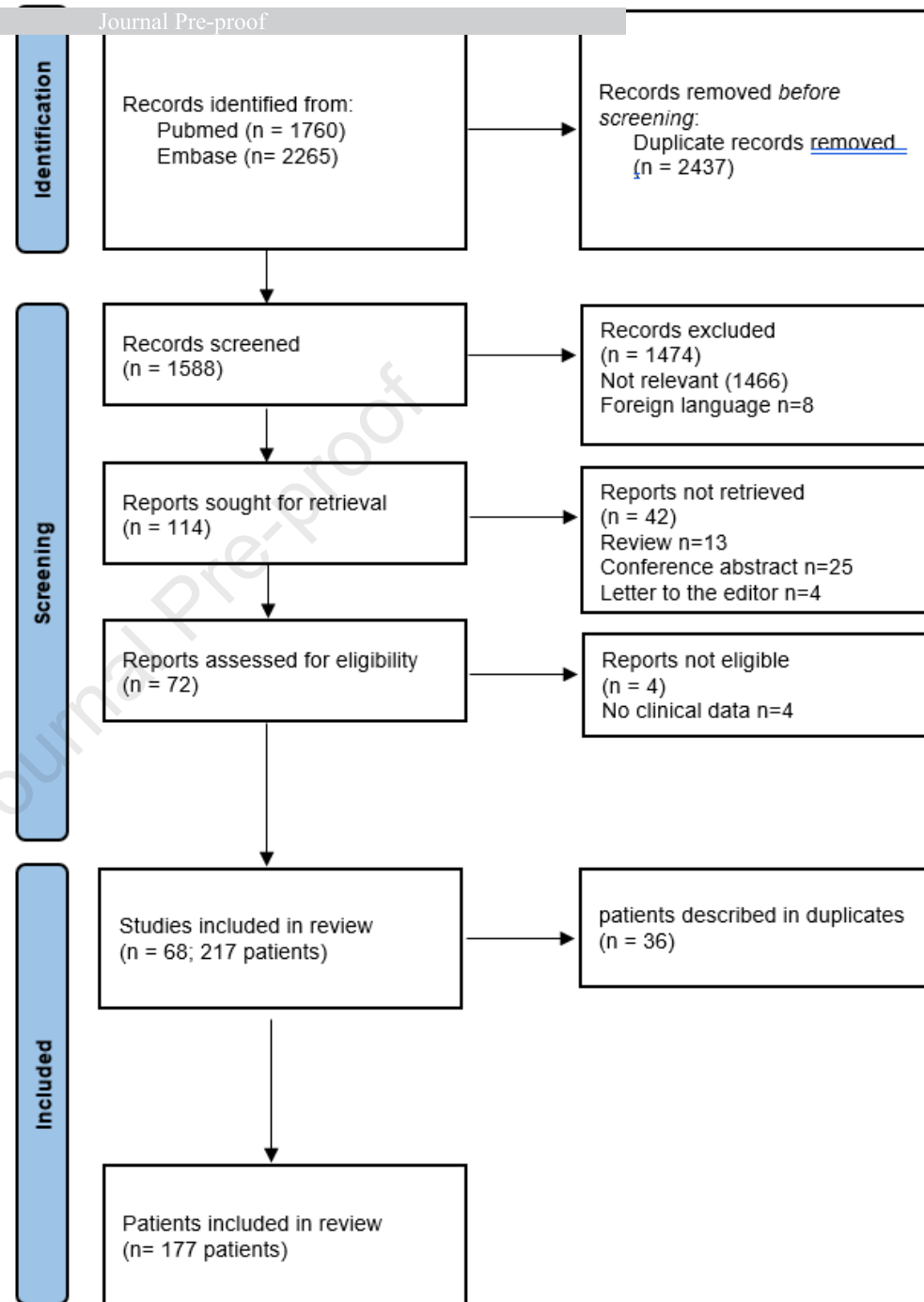
(a) Hierarchical tree (dendrogram) indicating how patients (x-axis, n=159) are clustered in three groups (vertical lines). From left to right : cluster 1, 2 and 3.

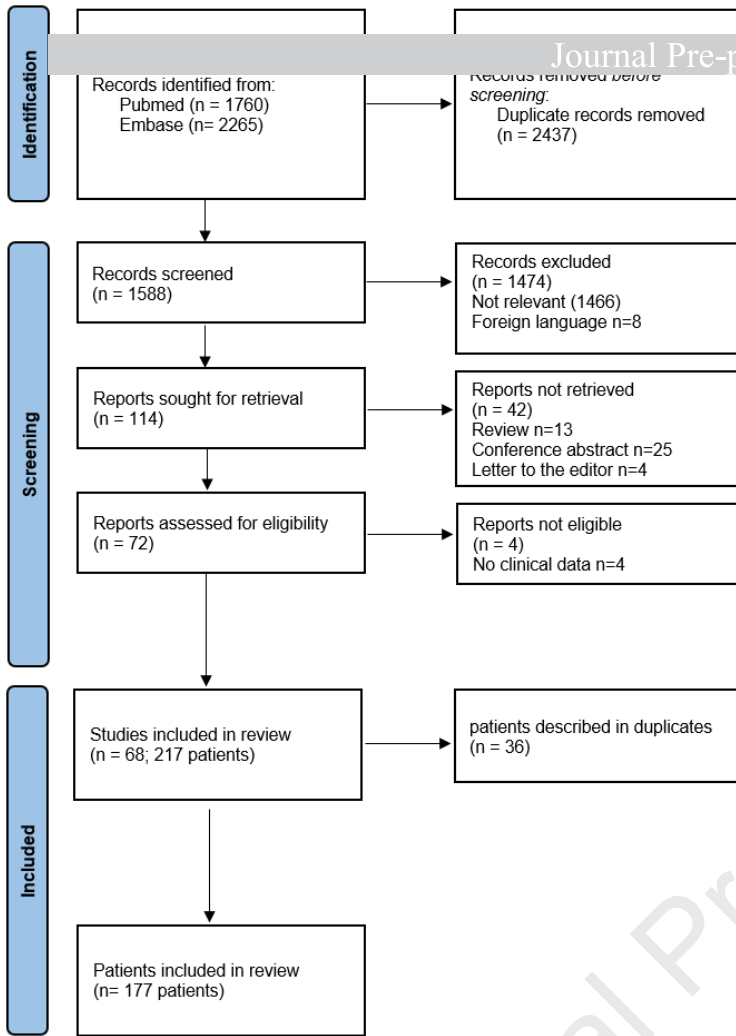
(b) Heatmap showing the frequency of each characteristic among each cluster

(c) Factorial map where each dot represents one patient (n=159), colored based on the cluster they belong to (MCA analysis)

Supp. figure 1. Prisma flowchart
Supplementary figure 1. Prisma flowchart.

We identified for inclusion in this review 68 articles describing 177 patients. The search of Medline database provided 4025 articles. After adjusting for duplicates, 1588 remained. Of these, 1474 were discarded after reviewing the title because they were irrelevant. Forty-two citations were excluded because they were reviews, letter to the editor or replies. The full texts of the remaining 72 citations were examined in more details. Four reports were excluded because the clinical data were not detailed. Patients described in duplicate (n=36) and triplicate (n=4) were included once. Finally, 177 patients from 68 reports were included.



Supplementary figure 1. **Prisma flowchart.**

We identified for inclusion in this review 68 articles describing 177 patients. The search of Medline database provided 4025 articles. After adjusting for duplicates, 1588 remained. Of these, 1474 were discarded after reviewing the title because they were irrelevant. Forty-two citations were excluded because they were reviews, letter to the editor or replies. The full texts of the remaining 72 citations were examined in more details. Four reports were excluded because the clinical data were not detailed. Patients described in duplicate (n=36) and triplicate (n=4) were included once. Finally, 177 patients from 66 reports were included.

Supplementary Table 3. Clinical features according to reported Geographic origin and sex

	East Asia n=103	Europe n=39	America n=16	West Asia n=10	South Asia n=8	p-value		Female n=108	Male n=69	p-value
Women	60 (58)	25 (64)	13 (81)	5 (50)	5 (63)	0.43				
Fever	62 (62)	14 (33)	9 (64)	5 (50)	2 (29)	0.036		54 (53)	38 (55)	0.7
Genital ulcers	30 (29)	18 (46)	8 (50)	6 (60)	1 (13)	0.047		48 (44)	15 (22)	0.004
Perianal inflammation	20 (19)	3 (8)	3 (19)	0	0	0.2		10 (10)	17 (27)	0.01
Digestive tract ulcer	32 (31)	5 (13)	2 (13)	1 (10)	2 (25)	0.1		19 (18)	24 (35)	0.019
Skin features	35 (34)	23 (59)	12 (75)	3 (30)	2 (25)	0.003		53 (50)	23 (32)	0.056
Anterior uveitis	2 (2)	2 (5)	3 (12)	0	1 (13)	0.03		7 (6)	1 (2)	0.1
SNC involvement	5 (5)	3 (8)	4 (25)	2 (20)	2 (25)	0.015		12 (12)	5 (7)	0.45
Autoimmunity	26 (26)	20 (51)	7 (44)	6 (10)	1 (13)	0.01		41 (39)	20 (26)	0.28
Thyroiditis	8 (8)	12 (31)	1 (6)	3 (30)	0	0.003		19 (18)	5 (7)	0.07

Supplementary methods. clustering analyses

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Clustering analysis was performed in R version 4.0.5 using the packages *FactoMineR*, *jactoextra*, *ClusterK*, *cluster* and *missMDA* and visualization using *ggplot2*. Briefly, only categorical variables were kept in this analysis. Missing data were imputed by using the function *imputeFAMD* function from the *missMDA* package with the method “regularized”. The (regularized) iterative FAMD algorithm first consists in coding the categorical variables using the indicator matrix of dummy variables. Then, in the initialization step, missing values are imputed with initial values such as the mean of the variable for the continuous variables and the proportion of the category for each category using the non-missing entries. Multiple correspondence analysis on categorical variables was performed with the MCA function without any modification in the function. Patients were clustered based on this result with the function HCPC which performs an agglomerative hierarchical clustering on results from a factor analysis with “ward” method. The number of clusters was set to -1 meaning that the number was unsupervised. Visualization of results and analysis of differences between clusters was performed by using *TableOne*, *ggplot2*, and *ggrepel* packages. All methods used here is available on this website: <https://rpubs.com/nchelaru/famd>.

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1. Detailed characteristics of the 177 patients included

Supplementary Table 2. Type of variation and domain affected in HA20 patients

Supplementary Table 3. Clinical features according to reported ethnicity and sex

Supplementary Table 4. Clinical features according to type of variation in *TNFAIP3* (pLOF vs Missense)

Supplementary Table 5. Clinical features according to A20 domain affected (OTU vs non-OTU)

Supplementary Table 6. Clinical features according to clusters.