Primary Sjögren’s Syndrome
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Chapter 3B

Comment on ‘Diagnostic accuracies of sialography and salivary ultrasonography in Sjögren’s syndrome patients: a meta-analysis’ by Song and Lee (2014)

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We were wondering which numbers were entered in the statistical program to perform the meta-analysis, since the authors could comment on the above raised issues. We would appreciate if the authors could comment on the above raised issues.

With great interest we have read the recently published meta-analysis by Song and Lee [1] in your journal regarding the diagnostic properties of sialography and salivary ultrasonography in Sjögren’s Syndrome (SS) patients. A systematic review and meta-analysis on this topic has been lacking so far from the literature and, thus, eagerly expected. We would like to express some concerns regarding Table 1 of their study in relation to the study outcomes. There seems to be a discrepancy between the data shown in the meta-analysis and the data presented by the source studies [2-7].

Additionally, summing the numbers of true positives, false positives, true negatives and false negatives in Table 1 of Song and Lee’s paper does not add up to the same numbers [1]. It is possible that the data set was not complete for every participant in the source studies. For instance, the study of Yoshiura et al. 1997, in which data from 2 control groups were used with different numbers for sialography and ultrasonography [7]. Furthermore, some source studies do not report the number of true positives, true negatives, false positives and false negatives. If Song and Lee report that discrepancies between reviewers were resolved by consensus or a third reviewer [1], it might be that there were no discrepancies to resolve and the inter-observer agreement measures.

We were wondering which numbers were entered in the statistical program to perform the meta-analysis, since these numbers influence the outcome of the study.
References


