

**PS7:130 INTERFERON BETA BLOCKADE RESCUES HUMAN BM-MSC OSTEOBLASTOGENESIS DEFECTS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS**

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10.1136/lupus-2018-abstract.173

Bone marrow mesenchymal stromal cells (BM-MSCs) are multipotent stem cells that can differentiate into chondrocytes, osteoblasts and adipocytes. SLE has been implicated as a stem cell disorder with impaired immunomodulatory function of SLE BM-MSCs and improvement of lupus nephritis with healthy MSCs transplantation has been suggested. However, the exact differentiation defects of SLE BM-MSCs have not been addressed, nor and potential interventions studied. Our previous work indicates upregulation of IFN beta specific genes in human SLE bone marrow derived MSCs compared to normal bone marrow MSC. Here we set out to investigate the differentiation defects of SLE BM-MSCs and potential intervention approaches.

We compared 6 age paired BM aspirates from healthy controls and SLE patients. BM-MSCs from SLE patients and healthy controls were isolated and cultured. The MSC surface markers are positive for CD73, CD90 and CD105, but negative for CD34 and CD45 in both healthy and SLE BM-MSCs after culture. No difference was observed in the surface markers between SLE and healthy BM-MSCs. However, SLE MSCs display significantly reduced osteoblastogenesis markers, such ALP (6 fold,  $p<0.05$ ), RUNX2 (8 fold,  $p<0.05$ ), OCN (4 fold,  $p<0.05$ ) and BSP (4 fold,  $p<0.05$ ). The osteoblast induction and ALP staining analysis for osteoblastogenesis also suggested a reduced differentiation with the SLE BM-MSCs. In contrast to the downregulation of osteoblast markers, the expression of IFN beta is increased 5 fold ( $p<0.05$ ) in SLE BM-MSCs. When BM-MSCs from healthy controls were treated with IFN beta for 6 hours, reduced ALP (12 fold,  $p<0.05$ ), RUNX2 (11 fold,  $p<0.05$ ), OCN (8 fold,  $p<0.05$ ) and BSP (7 fold,  $p<0.05$ ) were observed, suggesting that IFN beta plays an important role in inhibiting SLE BM-MSC differentiation into osteoblasts. Conversely, when IFN beta neutralising antibody was applied to SLE BM-MSCs, the osteoblastogenesis markers were significantly enhanced.

IFN-I signature is an important feature of SLE. Our present work suggests that SLE BM-MSCs produce IFN beta, mediating a decrease in osteoblastogenesis capacity. The successful rescue of the SLE BM-MSCs osteoblastogenesis defect with an IFN beta neutralising antibody highlights IFN as a new potential therapeutic target for SLE treatment.

**PS7:131 EARLY SEQUENTIAL COMBINATION THERAPY WITH MIZORIBINE AND TACROLIMUS IN SIXTY THREE PATIENTS OF LUPUS NEPHRITIS IN A SINGLE CENTRE IN JAPAN**

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10.1136/lupus-2018-abstract.174

**Background and aims** Mizoribine is an inhibitor of inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase, which is widely used for patients with lupus nephritis and also patients after renal transplants. Its anti-cytomegaloviral effect is unique as an immunosuppressant. We examined the efficacy and safety of

early sequential combination of mizoribine and tacrolimus in lupus nephritis.

**Methods** Retrospective review of electric medical record was performed for all the 65 patients who received the combination therapy of mizoribine and tacrolimus and corticosteroids for induction or maintenance of lupus nephritis at St. Luke's International Hospital, Tokyo, Japan. For efficacy analysis, we extracted a series of change in serum creatinine, serum complement level, urine protein creatinine ratio, dose of corticosteroid. We further reviewed safety profile such as adverse events occurred during the use of multi-target therapy, drug survival rate, or reasons for discontinue multi-target therapy in all patients. Complete remission of lupus nephritis was defined as a value of proteinuria  $<0.5$  g/gCr, normal urinary sediment, serum albumin 3.5 g/dl and a normal value of serum creatinine.

**Results** Fifty six out of the sixty three patients (female:male=59:4, average age 37.4 years old) achieved complete remission in 6 months and there were only two relapses and both of them had Class V nephritis. At four month, the average urine protein creatinine ratio was 0.36 g/gCr, and the average dose of prednisolone was 9.9 mg/day. There were only three episodes of infections which required antibiotics administrations.

**Conclusions** Early sequential combination of mizoribine and tacrolimus seems to be effective and safe for lupus nephritis.

**PS7:132 SMOKING REDUCES THE EFFICACY OF BELIMUMAB IN MUCOCUTANEOUS LUPUS**

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10.1136/lupus-2018-abstract.175

**Background** Belimumab is a biologic agent approved for the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Recently, we demonstrated decreasing SLE activity during belimumab treatment in patients from three Swedish clinical settings. In the present study, we aimed to investigate the effects of belimumab on mucocutaneous and articular SLE in relation to smoking status.

**Methods** Sixty-two patients with active SLE treated with belimumab between 2011 and 2017 were enrolled. We assessed the mucocutaneous disease using the mucocutaneous SLEDAI-2K and the cutaneous lupus erythematosus disease area and severity index (CLASI). Musculoskeletal activity was evaluated by the arthritis SLEDAI-2K descriptor and the 28-joint count.

**Results** At baseline, 44/62 (71.0%) patients had a mucocutaneous SLEDAI-2K score 2 or more (mean mucocutaneous SLEDAI-2K: 2.3; range 0–6;  $n=62$ ). The mean baseline CLASI activity was score: 8.4 (range: 0–39;  $n=33$ ). We observed decreased mucocutaneous SLEDAI-2K scores at month 6 ( $p<0.001$ ) and month 12 ( $p<0.001$ ) compared to baseline. CLASI activity scores also decreased from baseline to month 6 ( $p<0.001$ ) and 12 ( $p<0.001$ ). No significant worsening in CLASI damage scores was observed at either month 6 or 12. Patients with a baseline mucocutaneous SLEDAI-2K score 2 or more with a history of current or previous exposure to tobacco smoking ( $n=17$ ) displayed a more than six times higher probability of poor response to belimumab compared to never smokers ( $n=22$ ) (OR: 6.4; 95% CI: 1.5–27.4;  $p=0.012$ ). We observed decreased SLEDAI-2K scores for the