

75

FCGRIIA POLYMORPHISMS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH LUPUS NEPHRITIS IN MEXICAN PATIENTS

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10.1136/lupus-2019-lsm.75

Background Systemic Lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease mediated by the deposit of immune complexes of autoantibodies which are potentially inflammatory since they can activate the innate immune response through binding to FcγR. The SLE prevalence is 80 per 1 00 000 inhabitants, this prevalence is similar in other population groups, however, the presence of Lupus Nephritis is particularly high in Mexicans (60% of renal disease compared to 12% in Caucasian population), this data is relevant since the diversity of susceptibility genes that have been identified in Mexican patients are from Caucasian origin, despite this the lupus phenotype in Mexican Mestizo is different to any other population. The most important thing to consider is the impact that lupus nephritis causes in health status and quality of life of patients. In this study, the aim was to investigate whether the distribution of the FcγRIIa polymorphisms determines susceptibility to lupus nephritis, the main clinical manifestation in mestizo Mexican patient.

Methods A total of 111 patients that fulfilled the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) classification criteria for SLE and 102 healthy volunteers have been included in this study.

FCGR2A genotypes were determined by polymerase chain reaction-based allotyping methods with allele-specific probes; the clinical features were obtained from patients official medical records.

Results About polymorphism, when different groups of patients were compared: SLE with and without renal activity (defined as ACR criteria) there were found statistical differences between the groups, the genotype RR-131 ($p=0.04$, OR=3.61) was increased in patients with renal activity or history of this clinical manifestation. Additionally, it was found that the patients classified by biopsy with proliferative membrane glomerulonephritis, were mostly the patients with the GG genotype (60%).

Conclusions The results demonstrate that FcγRIIa polymorphism is associated with susceptibility to lupus nephritis in Mexican patients. The hypothesis for this association could be related to the role of this receptor in the clearance of immune complexes, mainly by innate immune cells like neutrophils which have been identified in biopsies of these patients. Additionally, the activation of this receptor by the engage with

immune complexes activate different immune lineage cells which function is affected by the presence of polymorphisms. Functional studies are necessary to determine how this polymorphism affects the effector activity of these cells and the consequences in renal tissue.

Funding Source(s): None

76

RISK OF HIP FRACTURE AMONG PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSIS OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS. A POPULATION-BASED STUDY

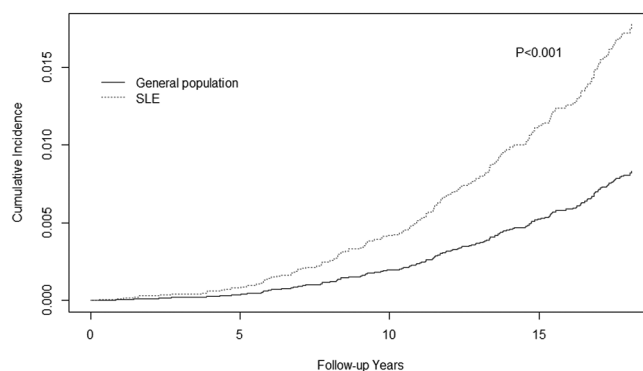
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10.1136/lupus-2019-lsm.76

Background Hip fractures (HP) have serious long-term effects, including 1 year mortality rate of up to 30% and poor functional recovery. Studies on the risk of HP fracture in SLE are limited due to the use of selected samples, failure to adjust for time-varying treatments and confounders. Our objective was to assess the risk of HP in patients with newly diagnosed SLE compared to the general population.

Methods Using physician billing data and a previously validated SLE case definition, we assembled an incident cohort of all patients with SLE who received care between January 1997 and March 2015 in the province of British Columbia, Canada. The main outcome was the first ever HP during follow-up. HP (ICD-9-CM codes 820.0, 820.2; ICD-10-CM codes S72.0, S72.1, S72.2) were identified using hospitalization data. We excluded patients with previous HP, pathological fractures or Pagets disease before the index date (SLE diagnosis). Non-SLE controls were randomly selected from the general population and matched (1:5) to SLE patients on birth year, sex, and index year. First, we used Kaplan-Meier estimates and log-rank test to compare time to first hip fracture between SLE and non-SLE controls. Multivariable analyses adjusting for baseline covariates known as potential risk factors for HP were done. In addition, marginal structure Cox models were then used to estimate the impact of having SLE on the risk of hip fracture, adjusting for time-dependent covariates, including glucocorticoid use, number of outpatient, inpatient and rheumatologist visits.

Results We identified 5047 patients with a new diagnosis of SLE and 25 235 non-SLE controls (mean age 40 years; 86% females for each cohort), yielding 73 and 273 HP, respectively. The incidence rate for HP for SLE and non-SLE were 0.93



Abstract 76 Figure 1 Cumulative incidence of hip fracture

Abstract 75 Table 1 FcγIIa genotypes in SLE patients.

Genotipos	LEG+act renal	LEG sin act. Renal	pC	OR	IC95%
	n=77 n (frecuencia)	n=34 n (frecuencia)			
R131/R131	25 (0.32)	4 (0.12)	0.04	3.61	1.15–11.35
R131/H131	41 (0.53)	19 (0.56)	NS		
H131/H131	11 (0.15)	11 (0.32)	0.05	0.35	0.13–0.91

Comparison of FcγIIa genotypes among patients who have presented renal activity compared with patients who have not presented renal activity.

and 0.69 per 1000 person-years, respectively. Patients with SLE had a higher risk of HP ($p < 0.001$, figure 1). The age- and sex-adjusted hazard ratio (HR) was 2.04 (95%CI;1.53–2.73). After adjusting for age, sex and baseline covariates, the HR was 1.85 (95% CI;1.37–2.52). After adjusting for age, sex, baseline covariates, and weighted time-dependent covariates, the HR was 1.63 (95% CI;1.07–2.50).

Conclusions Patients with a new diagnosis of SLE have 1.6 fold increased risk of HP than the general population. Given the impact of HP, this has important implications for mortality, functional status, and quality of life of people with SLE.

Funding Source(s): Canadian Institutes for Health Research (Grants MOP 125960 and THC 135235).

77 SULFAMETHOXAZOLE AND TRIMETHOPRIM CAUSES TRUE LUPUS EXACERBATIONS RATHER THAN DRUG REACTION

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10.1136/lupus-2019-lsm.77

Background Sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim (TMP-SMX) is frequently used for urinary tract infections and Pneumocystis prophylaxis in patients on high dose systemic steroids or cyclophosphamide. Recommendations on avoiding TMP-SMX in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) are based on anecdotal evidence. Many authors describe adverse effects of TMP-SMX to be a drug reaction or allergy rather than a true SLE exacerbation.

Methods We performed chart review in an urban community clinic setting from 2013 to 2018.

Results Three patients were identified as having a lupus exacerbation within one week of exposure to TMP-SMX, and one patient within two months. Exacerbations consisted of fever and arthralgia, lupus enteritis, lupus enteritis with pericarditis, and inflammatory arthritis. Three cases occurred in the summer (two in June and one in September) and one case in the winter (December). All patients required hospitalization. Two of four patients had stable SLE prior to exacerbation. Symptoms in all patients resolved after treatment with high dose systemic glucocorticoids. There were no recurrent manifestations after TMP-SMX was stopped. All patients continued baseline medications and did not need additional long-term immunosuppression.

Conclusions TMP-SMX can cause severe exacerbations of SLE and should be avoided in these patients. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of two instances of TMP-

SMX induced lupus enteritis. Serologic associations may identify those with greater risk, as a positive RNP, Smith and chromatin antibodies were found in three patients and SSA was positive in only one patient. Increased photosensitivity secondary to TMP-SMX may lead to exacerbation, as three cases occurred during summer months. More studies are needed to clarify guidelines for TMP-SMX use in patients with SLE and promote awareness of exacerbation risk within the primary care community.

Funding Source(s): None

78 DISCOVERY OF A NOVEL ANTI-TACI ANTIBODY WITH SLE TREATMENT EFFECT AND LIMITED SIDE-EFFECT

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10.1136/lupus-2019-lsm.78

Background All clinical trials involving the BAFF axis to date have targeted the ligand, BAFF. Remarkably, there have been no reports of targeting any of the BAFF receptors, BCMA, TACI, or BR3. TACI is critical for T cell-independent type antibody production and memory B cell survival. Also IgG autoantibody production in SLE patient is mainly a T cell-independent. Thus, TACI is a promising target for SLE treatment.

Methods In this study, we discovered a novel anti-TACI antibody, GenSci-X002, by hybridoma and humanization approach to investigate its function on SLE treatment.

Results GenSci-X002 specifically binds to TACI receptor with sub-nanomolar affinity and blocks the binding of TACI and BAFF ligand. Also, GenSci-X002 neutralized BAFF-TACI downstream signal in a luciferase reporter assay. In SLE mouse model, GenSci-X002 exhibited equivalent SLE treatment effects with Belimumab, evidenced by the significant decrease of pathogenic autoantibody production, kidney Ig deposition and the development of nephritis. Remarkably, GenSci-X002 didn't alter normal B cell subsets and B cell numbers with minimal side effect.

Conclusions Here, we show that anti-TACI antibody protected against BAFF-mediated autoimmune manifestations while preserving B cells, suggesting that loss of BAFF signaling through TACI rather than loss of B cells may underpin the effect of Belimumab in the clinic. Therefore, B cell blockade of TACI by GenSci-X002 may offer a more specific and safer therapeutic alternative to broad B cell depletion in SLE. The candidate therapeutics, GenSci-X002, will be further studied in preclinical evaluation to enter early-stage clinical trials of SLE in future.

Funding Source(s): None

79 CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS COMPLICATED WITH PULMONARY THROMBOEMBOLISM

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10.1136/lupus-2019-lsm.79

Background There is strong evidence for an association between SLE and an increased risk of pulmonary thromboembolism (PTE). PTE occurs with a higher frequency in SLE patients compared to the general population.

Abstract 77 Table 1

Demographics	Serology/APS	Baseline Medications	Reaction to TMP-SMX
47 F	Chromatin, Smith, RNP	Hydroxychloroquine	Fever, Arthralgia
37 F	Chromatin, Smith, RNP	Belimumab	Lupus Enteritis
56 M	Chromatin, Cardiolipin IgM, Beta 2 glycoprotein 1 IgM	Hydroxychloroquine, Belimumab	Inflammatory Arthritis
42 F	Chromatin, Smith, RNP, dsDNA, Ribosomal P, SSA	Hydroxychloroquine, Prednisone	Lupus Enteritis, Ascites, Pericarditis

Demographics, serologies, and manifestations of patients with lupus exacerbation