Background Microvesicles (MVs) expressing the type 1 interferon (IFN)-inducible protein galectin-3 binding protein (G3BP) may play a pathogenic role in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Co-expression of DNA on such MVs may render them immunogenic and target for anti-dsDNA antibodies. Little is known about the mechanisms underlying generation of this MV population. In this study, we investigated how Toll-like receptors, interferon- (IFN-) and T cells are related hereto in healthy subjects.

Methods Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) isolated from 12 healthy donors were stimulated *in-vitro* for 24 hours with a series of TLR-agonists or the T-cell activating antibody OKT3 or were subjected to apoptosis by incubation with staurosporine. MVs in the supernatants were subsequently isolated by differential centrifugation and were quantified and characterized with respect to expression of G3BP and DNA by flow cytometry.

Results Stimulation of PBMCs with the TLR9-agonist and strong IFN- inducer ODN2395 significantly increased the release of MVs expressing G3BP. A large proportion of these MVs expressed augmented levels of DNA on their surface. The production of MVs with this phenotype was markedly enhanced by co-stimulation of T cells. Furthermore, dependency on IFN- in the generation of G3BP-expressing MVs was indicated by a marked reduction following addition of the IFN- inhibitor IFN alpha-IFNAR-IN-1 hydrochloride.

Conclusions The release of G3BP-expressing MVs from healthy donor PBMCs is induced by stimulation of TLR9 in an IFN-dependent manner. The co-expression of DNA accessible for anti-DNA antibodies on these MVs may render them relevant in lupus pathogenesis.

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Effect of IFN- inhibition on TLR9-induced release of MVs from mononuclear cells.

132

ZOSTER INFECTIONS INCREASE THE RISK OF FLARES IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

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Background The aim of this cohort study is to explore whether zoster infection could increase the risk of flares in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.

Methods Patients who had zoster infection between January 2013 and April 2018 were included from the SLE database of Shanghai Ren Ji Hospital, South Campus. Patients with bacterial infections including urinary tract infection and bacterial pneumonia were selected as controls. Severe infections including fungi infections and septic shock were excluded. Besides, 200 SLE patients at the same time were set as general populations by systemic sampling. Baseline period was defined as three months before infections or admissions for general population, and risk period was within three months after infections or admissions. Characteristics and treatment strategies of baseline period including gender, age, disease duration, average daily dose of prednisone and immunosuppressive agents were collected. Flare was defined by SELENE SLEDAI criterion. Flare free

Abstract 132 Figure 1 Kaplan Meier curve showed that compared to general population, more patients with a history of zoster infection within 3 months had a relapse of disease, while bacterial infections did not seem to affect the relapse rate

survival was assessed by Kaplan-Meier curve. Cox regression analysis was performed to identify risk factors of flares.

Results 33 with zoster infections, 18 with urinary tract infections and 7 patients with bacterial pneumonia were identified in this period. 13 relapses in 11 patients were observed, but there were only 3 relapses in bacterial infection group. Kaplan Meier curve showed that compared to general population, more patients with a recent history of zoster infection within 3 months had a flare (33.3% vs 9%, $p=0.0034$), while bacterial infections did not seem to affect the flare rate (12% vs 9%, $p=0.4755$). Furthermore, after adjusting important covariates, cox regression analysis confirmed that prior zoster infection within three months was a risk factor of flares in SLE patients ($p<0.001$, HR 4.7).

Conclusions In patients with SLE, recent zoster infection within three months may be associated with increased risk of flares.

Funding Source(s): Kaplan Meier Curve of patients in three groups

133

A YOUNG GIRL WITH LUPUS, RECURRENT PERICARDIAL EFFUSION AND CARDIAC TAMPONADE

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Background Pleuritis and pericarditis, with or without effusion, are the commonest pulmonary and cardiovascular manifestations in children with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). However, SLE presenting as an isolated pericardial effusion with cardiac tamponade is distinctly unusual.

Methods We report one such case who went on to develop recurrent episodes of pericardial effusion and tamponade.

Results A 14-year-old girl presented with high grade fever, progressive dyspnea, pedal edema, periorbital puffiness for 7 days. She also had history of malar rash and photosensitivity. There was no history of oral ulcer and hair loss. Physical examination showed a prominent malar rash; heart rate 140/min; respiratory rate 40/min; muffled heart sounds;