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.

Abstract 132 ZOSTER INFECTIONS INCREASE THE RISK OF FLARES IN PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

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10.1136/lupus-2019-lsm.132

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.

Funding Source(s): Lundbeck Foundation, Rigshospitalets Fund for Research, Gigtforeningen

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

Abstract 133 A YOUNG GIRL WITH LUPUS, RECURRENT PERICARDIAL EFFUSION AND CARDIAC TAMPONODE

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10.1136/lupus-2019-lsm.133

Background Pleuritis and pericarditis, with or without effusion, are the commonest pulmonary and cardiovascular manifestations in children with systemic lupus erythematous(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, periordial 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;