CORRELATION BETWEEN SERUM AUTOANTIBODIES AND CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS IN JSLE

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Background Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) has a large clinical spectrum, ranging from mild to severe disease. Some studies have proven correlations between specific autoantibodies and particular clinical manifestations. The aim is to assess if there is any correlation between autoantibodies and clinical manifestations in our sample.

Methods Retrospective longitudinal study of juvenile-onset SLE patients evaluated in Pediatric Rheumatologic unit of a tertiary Hospital. All patients fulfilled both 2012 and 2019 EULAR/ACR classification criteria for SLE. Juvenile-onset was defined as age at diagnosis <18 years. Demographics and clinical characteristics were collected. Statistical analysis was performed with chi-square test by SPSS™ software. Results were considered statistically significant if p<0.05.

Results 30 jSLE patients were included (90% female) with median (min-max) age of 21 (16–35) years old, with mean (SD) age of diagnosis of 15.8 ± 2.1. Muco-cutaneous manifestations occurred in 25, articular involvement in 16, hematologic in 14, renal in 12, pulmonary in 1, pleuropencardial in 2 and another 2 with thrombotic events. All were positive for antinuclear antibodies: 18 with speckled pattern, 11 homogeneous and 1 nucleolar. 11 jSLE were positive for antinucleosomal autoantibodies, 10 anti-SSA antibodies, 8 anti-histone, 7 anti-ribosomal P protein antibody, 4 anti-Sm, 4 anti-RNP, 4 Lupus anticoagulant, 3 had autoantibodies against β2-glycoprotein I, 2 anti-cardiolipin and 2 anti-SSB antibodies. The presence of antinucleosomal (p=0.003) and anti-SSA (p=0.04) antibodies was significantly associated with articular involvement; anti-histone with renal manifestations (p=0.005) and lupus anticoagulant in serosal involvement (p=0.02).

Conclusions Anti-histone antibodies have been linked to lupus nephritis disease activity. The other associations are not described in the literature. Sample size is a limitation and further studies in our population are required.

SERUM BAFF AND APRIL AS CANDIDATE BIOMARKERS IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE): A PROSPECTIVE FOLLOW-UP STUDY

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Background BAFF and APRIL are cytokines involved in B cell development and they take place in SLE pathogenesis. The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between serum BAFF/APRIL levels with clinical features and disease activity in SLE patients.

Methods We included 79 patients with SLE (SLICC criteria) and 27 healthy controls into the study. Serum BAFF and APRIL levels were assessed by ELISA. In 19 patients with active disease, BAFF/APRIL levels were reassessed at least 6 months later and disease activity was evaluated by SLEDAI. New renal involvement was observed in 16 patients during the study and renal involvement was previously detected in 12 patients.

Results Although both BAFF (median 0.7 vs 0.41 ng/ml) and APRIL (median 2.3 vs 1.05 ng/ml) levels were higher in patients with SLE compared to the control group (p<0.001), no correlation was found between BAFF/APRIL levels and SLEDAI scores. When patients were grouped according to disease activity as no activity (SLEDAI = 0), low