CORRELATION BETWEEN SERUM AUTOANTIBODIES AND CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS IN JSLE

Sara Ganhão, Francisca Aguiar, Mariana Rodrigues, Ifva Brito. Young Adult and Pediatric Rheumatology Unit, Centro Hospitalar e Universitário do Hospital de São João, Porto; Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

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 qui-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. Mucocutaneous manifestations occurred in 25, articular involvement in 16, hematologic in 14, renal in 12, pulmonary in 1, pleuroperticardial 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 anticardiolipin and 7 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 anticardiolipin (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

Selma Sari, Suzan Çinar, Bahar Arım Esen, Ahmet Gül, Lale Ocał, Günnur Deniz, Murat İranç, Dept. of Internal Medicine, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul; Dept. of Immunology, Aziz Sancar Institute of Experimental Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul; Dept. of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey

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
disease activity and active disease, there was no difference in BAFF/APRIL levels between groups. Serum BAFF levels were higher in patients with renal disease activity (median 0.94 ng/ml vs 0.61 ng/ml, p=0.01), and there was a positive correlation between APRIL levels and proteinuria (r=0.42, p=0.02). There was no association between BAFF/APRIL levels and anti-dsDNA positivity but a weak inverse correlation was observed between BAFF and C3 levels (r=0.25, P=0.02). No correlation was found between BAFF/APRIL levels and renal SLEDAI scores, histopathologic activity and chronicity index scores. In the active disease group after follow-up, there was no significant changes in BAFF (from 1.63 ng/ml to 1.2 ng/ml) and APRIL levels (from 2.11 ng/ml to 2.31 ng/ml).

Conclusions BAFF/APRIL levels were found to be significantly higher in patients with SLE compared to controls, but no association with disease activity was found. BAFF levels are correlated with decreased C3 levels. These results suggest that both cytokines are involved in the pathogenesis of SLE, and that serum BAFF and APRIL levels can be valuable biomarkers in SLE especially in patients with renal activity. Long-term studies on the effect of treatment are needed.

Acknowledgements This work was supported by Scientific Research Project Coordination Unit of Istanbul University (Project number: TTU-2016-22314).

Abstract P27 Figure 1 MxA expression in all analyzed skin diseases (number of biopsies)

but this was less consistent compared to CLE. Most other inflammatory skin diseases did show no or a low expression of MxA. (See figure 1).

Conclusion MxA is strongly expressed in CLE skin with a high negative predictive value and is thus useful as additional diagnostic histological marker, expectedly resulting in restriction of misdiagnosis and treatment delay.

Abstract P28 DECREASED PLATELET SIZE IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IS ASSOCIATED WITH UP-REGULATION OF TYPE I INTERFERON PROTEINS

Background Dysregulated apoptosis is of major importance in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) pathogenesis, linked to the development of autoantibodies, immune complex formation and type I interferon signaling. Platelets from SLE patients are smaller in size, compared to platelets from healthy individuals, which may suggest an increased rate of apoptosis, a known cause of platelet shrinkage. Our aim with this project was to investigate if decreased platelet size could be explained by increased apoptosis rates.

Methods Platelet activation markers; CD62P, CD41, CD154, CD32, PAC-1 and PAR1 and apoptosis; Annexin V, Caspase 3 activation, mitochondrial content (MitoTracker) and mitochondrial depolarization (JC-1) where analyzed in 23 SLE patients and 10 healthy controls (HC) by flow cytometry. Analysis of the total protein content in platelets from SLE patients of normal (n=5) and decreased (n=5) size were made using mass spectrometry (MS).

Results The level of CD41 (p=0.001) positive platelets and mean expression of CD154 (p=0.004) were higher in SLE patients. A JC-1 ratio (p=0.0001) indicating increased mitochondrial depolarization was significantly associated with