thrombolytic pathways, the induction of DAH by pristane was unaffected by the absence of plasminogen activator inhibitor1 or tissue plasminogen activator, suggesting that protection is related to the action of Serp-1 on macrophage function.

Conclusions Serp-1 blocks pristane-induced lung hemorrhage by enhancing LXR-regulated M2 macrophage polarization and Klf4-regulated IL-10 production. In view of the similarities between DAH in pristane-treated mice and SLE patients, clinical trials of Serp-1 for DAH in SLE may be warranted. Since Serp-1 treatment increases expression of the reverse cholesterol transporter ABCA1, it also may have beneficial effects on atherosclerosis in SLE patients. Supporting the feasibility of future clinical studies in SLE, Serp-1 treatment reduced myocardial damage in patients with acute coronary syndrome.

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702

PRISTANE INDUCED LUPUS IN HDAC6-MICE

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Background We and others have reported that selective histone deacetylase 6 (HDAC6) inhibition decreases inflammation in a variety of animal models including inflammatory arthritis and lupus. In this study, we explored whether HDAC6 gene deletion could affect pristane-induced lupus.

Methods C57BL/6 (w.t.) and HDAC6^{-/-} C57BL/6 mice were given 0.5 ml of pristane intraperitoneally (ip) at 3 months of age. Injection of pristane induces a lupus-like syndrome whose pathogenesis implicates the secretion of type I IFN by CD11b (+) Ly6C(high) inflammatory monocytes in a TLR7-dependent fashion. Two weeks after pristane administration the mice were euthanized and assessed for various parameters of inflammation. At termination of the experiment, serum, peritoneal macrophages, and splenic tissue was collected and evaluated.

Results The pristane treated animals euthanized showed diffuse alveolar hemorrhage, both w.t. and knock-outs. At sacrifice, spleens were significantly larger in the HDAC6^{-/-} mice compared to the w.t. pristane mice, however when compared to body weights there was not a significant difference. Flow cytometry did not indicate any differences in T cell or B cell populations. Sera IL-12, IL-6, TGF-β, IL-10, and TNF-α were comparable in the w.t. and the knock-out animals treated with pristane. Peritoneal recruitment of CD11b(+) Ly6C(high) inflammatory monocytes in HDAC6^{-/-} mice was significantly increased compared to the w.t. mice. Evaluation of the transcripts for several IFN inducible genes revealed significantly increased IRF-7 expression in the HDAC6^{-/-} mice however lower expression of IFN β and IRF-9.

Conclusions Taken together, our results show that in early lupus induction with pristane, HDAC6 gene deletion alters monocyte activation and differentially regulates IFN inducible genes.

800 – Pharmacoepidemiology

801

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SLE FLARES AFTER HCQ TAPER, DISCONTINUATION OR MAINTENANCE IN THE SLICC INCEPTION COHORT: LOWER EDUCATION LINKED WITH HIGHER FLARE RISK

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Background Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) is a cornerstone treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). We compared time to flare in SLE patients discontinuing/reducing HCQ versus those maintaining their dose, and identified factors associated with time to flare.

Methods We analyzed prospective data from the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC) cohort, which includes SLE patients from 33 sites in Europe, Asia, and North America, enrolled within 15 months of diagnosis and followed annually (1999-2019). We identified patients with HCQ reduction/discontinuation, regardless of disease activity. We evaluated person-time that patients contributed on their initial dose ('maintenance'), comparing this to person-time contributed after a first dose reduction, and person-time after a first HCQ discontinuation. We estimated time to first flare, defined as either subsequent need for therapy augmentation (steroids or other immunomodulators), increase of ≥4 points in the SLE Disease Activity Index-2000 (SLEDAI-2K) or hospitalization for SLE. We estimated crude flare rates for each sub-cohort and hazard ratios and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for various demographic and clinical factors potentially associated with flare risk in the reduction and discontinuation sub-cohorts, as well as comparator maintenance sub-cohorts (matched for time on HCQ to the reduction and discontinuation sub-cohorts).

Results We studied 1460 SLE patients (90% women, 52% Caucasian) on HCQ. Of these, 592 subsequently reduced HCQ at any point, while 407 discontinued HCQ at any point. The crude flare rate for the HCQ reduction sub-cohort was 42.3 per 100 person-years (95% CI 38.6, 46.4), versus 35.6 (95% CI 32.4, 39.1) in the matched maintenance sub-cohort. In the discontinuation sub-cohort, the crude flare rate