Conclusion High levels of s ICAM 1 may be a consequence of inflammation or tissue damage made by nitric oxide generated by xanthine oxidase.

AB0029 SELECTIVE INHIBITION OF COX-2 ON ACID-INDUCED GASTRIC ULCERS: COMPARISON OF MELOXICAM, PIROXICAM AND NIMESULIDE

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Background Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are known to have adverse effects on the gastro-intestinal system through the inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis by cyclooxygenase-1 (COX-1). Reducing inflammation by selectively inhibiting COX-2 has reduced gastrointestinal side effects. The effect of selective COX-2 inhibition or non-selective inhibition on the aggravation of gastric lesions due to other causes, however, has not been thoroughly examined.

Objectives We tested the hypothesis that agents that selectively inhibit COX-2 (meloxicam and nimesulide) would aggravate HCL-induced gastric lesions in rats less than a nonselective inhibition (piroxicam).

Methods Gastric lesions were induced in male rats (N = 10 per group) using 0.45 N HCL. The test drug (1.5 or 3 mg/kg) was administered s.c. 60 min before the instillation of HCL (1 ml/100 g BW) into the stomach. One hour later the animals were euthanized and the stomachs were removed, rinsed, opened along the greater curvature and photographed. Lesions were quantified in the fundus region using computer-assisted planimetry of the digital images.

Results The stomach area of all groups was comparable. The results in terms of absolute ulcer area, ratio of ulcer area to total fundus area and this ratio as compared to the control group is summarised in the following Table 1.

Abstract AB0029 Table 1

	Meloxicam 1.5 mg/kg	Meloxicam 3 mg/kg	Nimesulide 1.5 mg/kg	Nimesulide 3 mg/kg	Piroxicam 1.5 mg/ kg	Piroxicam 3 mg/kg
Ulcer Area (mm ²)	117 ± 24	105 ± 16	99 ± 18	137 ± 21	141 ± 21	166 ± 15*
Ratio ulcer/ fundus	14.3 ± 2.8	12.6 ± 1.6	11.7 ± 2.1	16.5 ± 2.6	17.4 ± 2.9	20.2 ± 1.9*
% Control	10.2	-3.1	-10.4	27.0	33.9	55.5*

Conclusion This *in vivo* test supports the hypothesis that selective inhibition of COX-2 has less effect on acid-induced gastric ulcers in rats than a nonselective inhibition. In this test meloxicam had no effect on gastric lesions, nimesulide only a trend for ulcer enhancement but piroxicam produced a clear augmentation of HCL-induced gastric lesions.

AB0030 BIOPSY FINDINGS IN ADULT-ONSET STILL DISEASE

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Background The differential diagnosis of adult-onset Still disease involves cancer, infections and other rheumatic diseases. Thus, differential diagnosis frequently requires the performance of biopsies. However, there are not many reports about histological findings in these patients.

Objectives To describe biopsy findings in patients with adult-onset Still disease.

Methods We have studied biopsies from 35 patients with adult-onset Still disease performed between April of 1979 and December of 1999 in Salvador Zubirán Nutrition Institute.

Results 60% of all patients adult-onset Still disease underwent a biopsy. In lymphatic ganglions, which constitute the most frequent biopsy, the main finding is the loss of structure with lymphoid follicles of variable size and a sinusoidal part widened with arteries with hyalines and gross walls. In some samples, areas of necrosis and haemorrhage were found. In the liver appeared focal infiltrates of polymorphonuclear leukocytes in hepatic lobulillar and lymphoplasmocytaries accumulates in porta spaces. In some patients an opening of sinusoidal and Disse spaces with focal necrosis area was described. In the spleen, polymorphonuclears were identified in red pulp, with a moderate amount of plasmatic cells and eosinophils, and an important widening of arterial walls. White pulp did not showed any disturbance. In the skin, it was demonstrated the presence of polymorphonuclears and lymphocytes infiltrates with a perivascular and perianaxial predominance. Paraqueratosis areas were also described. Perivascular inflammatory infiltrates in the muscle with areas of necrosis were described. In the lung, a broadening of alveolar walls because of an inflammatory infiltrate composed by polymorphonuclears and lymphocytes was described. Areas of haemorrhage were also described.

Conclusion We have not found any characteristic histological finding of Still disease in the adult. In most of the biopsies predominate non-specific inflammatory infiltrates.

AB0031 PROTEIN SULFHYDRYLS AND CARBONYL CONTENT CHANGES IN SERA OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

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Objectives Oxygen free radicals play a major role in the generation of acute and chronic inflammatory processes one of which is Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). Biological thiols or sulfhydryls protect cells against oxidative stress. Introduction of carbonyls into proteins is the consequences of the protein oxydation. This study is planned to investigate the roles of oxygen free radicals in rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods In this study; according to ACR criteria, a total of 29 RA patients (M/F = 7/22) aged between 31 to 68 years old are included. They were physically evaluated by the number of tender points. Rutin laboratory investigations (ESR, CRP, RF, biochemically parameters) were also evaluated. Control group were