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FRI0083 REDUCED INCREASE OF ACPA IGG-FC GALACTOSYLATION DURING PREGNANCY IN COMPARISON TO TOTAL IGG: AN EXPLANATION WHY AUTOANTIBODY POSITIVE RA-PATIENTS IMPROVE LESS DURING PREGNANCY?

A. Bondt^{1,2,3}, L. Hafkenscheid³, D. Falck², T.M. Kuijper¹, Y. Rombouts³, J.M. Hazes¹, M. Wuhrer², R.J. Dolhain¹. ¹Rheumatology, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam; ²Center for Proteomics and Metabolomics; ³Rheumatology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) disease activity (DAS28-CRP) improves less during pregnancy in autoantibody positive patients.¹ The most specific autoantibodies for RA are anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPAs), which mainly occur as the immunoglobulin (Ig) G isotype. An association with DAS28-CRP and the pregnancy-associated improvement is well established for the Fc glycosylation of total IgG, in particular for galactosylation (Gal) and sialylation (SA).² The Fc glycosylation of ACPAs – mainly present as IgG – has been reported to be different from the total IgG Fc glycosylation.³

Objectives: We sought to determine whether the change in ACPA IgG glycosylation during pregnancy is different from that of total IgG, and whether this relates to the improvement of RA during pregnancy.

Methods: ACPA positive patient sera (n=152) were obtained within the framework of the PARA cohort, a prospective study designed to investigate pregnancy-associated improvement of RA. ACPA IgG was isolated using microscale affinity chromatography. Trypsin digested ACPA IgG was measured using nano-liquid chromatography mass spectrometry, and compared to total IgG.

Results: Pregnancy-associated changes in the levels of glycosylation were observed for all ACPA IgG subclasses. Pregnancy-associated glycosylation changes were less pronounced during pregnancy and after delivery in ACPA IgG (Gal +5%; SA +0.5%) compared to total IgG (Gal +11%; SA +2.5%; Figure 1), but – for total IgG – not different between ACPA+ and ACPA- patients. No association of the change in DAS28-CRP with the change in ACPA IgG or total IgG galactosylation was observed for ACPA+ patients, whereas a strong association of total IgG galactosylation was observed for ACPA- patients.

Conclusions: During pregnancy the increase in galactosylation of ACPA IgG was less pronounced than that of total IgG, whereas the increase in the galactosylation of total IgG was not different between ACPA+ and ACPA- patients. Since it is known that changes in IgG galactosylation are associated with improvement of RA during pregnancy and since ACPA is thought to be of pathogenic significance in RA, our data might provide an explanation why ACPA+ RA patients are less likely to improve during pregnancy.

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FRI0084 THE TONSIL MICROBIOME IS INVOLVED IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

J. Li¹, J. He¹, K. Deng², J. Qin², Y. Jin¹, J. Chen¹, Z. Li¹. ¹Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, Peking University People's Hospital, Beijing; ²Digital Microbiota Technology Co. Ltd., Shenzhen, China

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a prevalent systemic autoimmune disease characterized by the production of autoantibodies¹. The tonsil has been demonstrated to be a site of citrullination, and tonsillectomy has been reported to be a potential treatment of RA, suggesting the possibility that the tonsil could be a site of autoimmunity generation in RA^{2,3}. The dysbiosis of gut microbiome and the associated host immune response has been implicated in the initiation and progression of RA^{4–6}. However, there is no in-depth studies on the role of tonsil microbiota in RA. Thus, studies of the characteristics of tonsil microbiome in RA patients, the underlying mechanisms, as well as specific markers for the diagnosis and therapeutic evaluation for RA, are critical for the early diagnosis and prevention of RA.

Objectives: Therefore, we aimed to define the association of RA with tonsil microbiome as well as a microbial and metabolite profile that could predict disease status.

Methods: 16S rRNA gene sequencing was utilized on 220 tonsil swab samples (121 RA patients and 99 healthy controls) as well as 78 fecal samples (68 RA and 10 controls). Analysis of microbial taxa and metabolic pathway were performed to characterise and compare the tonsil microbiome of RA patients and healthy subjects

Results: Results showed that the tonsil harbored a unique microbiome relative to that present in the fecal samples. Patients with RA exhibited different tonsil microbiome from controls. A taxon-level analysis suggested that the relative abundance of 26 microbial clades were significantly altered, with 7 taxa increased and 19 taxa decreased in RA samples. Noticeably, we observed an expansion of rare microbial lineages as well as an alteration in microbial cladogenesis within RA patients. RA tonsil microbiota was associated with smoke, anti-peripheral factor, rheumatoid factors, disease duration and activity. Furthermore, we identified that 86 genes associated with bacterial metabolic pathway were enriched in RA tonsil microbiome.

Conclusions: Our results demonstrated that the RA tonsil microbiome differs from that of healthy controls, which correlates with systemic autoimmune changes and may potentially drives initiation of RA.

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Rheumatoid arthritis - prognosis, predictors and outcome

FRI0085 NUMBER OF PEPTIDE-SPECIFIC ANTI-CITRULLINATED PEPTIDE ANTIBODIES IN SYNOVIAL FLUID AND IN SYNOVIAL FLUID IMMUNE COMPLEXES ASSOCIATE WITH DEGREE OF RADIOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION AND RESPONSE TO TRIAMCINOLONE HEXACETONIDE FOR KNEE SYNOVITIS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

A. Sohrabian¹, L. Mathsson Alm^{1,2}, M. Hansson³, J. Lysholm⁴, M. Cornillet⁵, A. Knight⁶, K. Skriver⁷, G. Serre⁵, A. Larsson⁸, T. Weitoft⁹, J. Rönnelid¹.

¹Department of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology, Uppsala university; ²Immunodiagnostic Division, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Uppsala; ³Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm; ⁴Clinic of Rheumatology, Falun Hospital, Falun, Sweden; ⁵Epithelial Differentiation and Rheumatoid Autoimmunity, U 1056 Inserm Toulouse University, Toulouse, France; ⁶Rheumatology, Department of Medical Sciences, Uppsala university, Uppsala, Sweden; ⁷Department of Medicine, Charité University Hospital, Berlin, Germany; ⁸Section of Clinical Chemistry, Department of Medical Sciences, Uppsala university, Uppsala; ⁹Section of Rheumatology, Center for Research and Development, Uppsala university, Gävle, Sweden

Background: We have described a planar microarray for the determination

of antibodies against individual citrullinated peptides (ACPA; Hansson M et al. *Arthritis Res Ther* 2012;14:R201). We have also developed a method for the quantification of autoantibodies in immune complexes (IC; Sohrabian et al. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2015;74(Suppl 1):A74). Here we have combined these techniques to determine ACPA profiles in RA IC.

Objectives: To investigate if measurement of specific ACPA in synovial fluids (SF) and in IC from sera and SF can provide more prognostic information than conventional measurement of total ACPA and rheumatoid factor (RF) in serum.

Methods: Seventy-seven RA patients with knee synovitis were treated with intra-articular triamcinolone hexacetone, and followed until relapse. DAS28 and radiographic joint damage according to Larson-Dale were recorded. Anti-CCP2, IgM and IgA RF and circulating C1q-binding immune complexes (CIC) were determined in paired sera and SF. IC were purified from sera and SF by binding to C1q-coated beads, and thereafter eluted with a procedure developed in our laboratory. Antibodies against 19 citrullinated peptides were investigated with a custom-made microarray assay based on the ImmunoCAP ISAC system (Phadia AB, Sweden) in sera and SF as well as in IC from sera and SF. The target peptides were filaggrin 307–324 (CCP1), vimentin peptides 60–75 and 2–17, fibrinogen peptides α 36–50, α 563–583, α 580–600, α 621–635, β 36–52, β 60–74, β 62–81 (with citrullination in positions 72 and 74, respectively), α -enolase 5–21 (CEP-1), peptides 1, 5, Z1, Z2 and Bla26 from hnRNP, and histone 4 peptides 14–34 and 31–50. Cutoffs were established in relation to healthy controls. Backward stepwise regression was used to investigate what factors determined Larsen Dale index, DAS28, and duration of remission after steroid treatment. Independent factors were anti-CCP2, IgM RF, IgA RF, CIC, number of ACPA peptide reactivities, and number of ACPA reactivities in IC, all measured both in serum and paired SF.

Results: A considerable proportion of anti-CCP2 negative patients had multiple ACPA in SF, and in IC fractions. High DAS28 associated with reactivity against 7/19 peptides in serum and 9/19 in SF. High Larsen score associated with number of specific ACPA in SF IC and with CIC in SF. DAS28 levels associated with IgM RF in SF and with CIC in SF; and steroid response duration with number of specific ACPA in serum and in SF IC.

Conclusions: We found ACPA in SF, and especially in the IC fraction of SF, in a sizeable fraction of anti-CCP2 negative patients. Number of peptide-specific ACPA (but not anti-CCP2 levels) associated with radiological destruction and length of remission after intra-articular steroid therapy. Our data do not support a role for any unique ACPA specificity in RA pathogenesis. Instead, the number of individual ACPA specificities may be important.

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FRI0086 EFFICACY AND SAFETY DATA BASED ON HISTORICAL OR PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS AT BASELINE FOR PATIENTS WITH ACTIVE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS WHO WERE TREATED WITH BARICITINIB

B. Combe¹, A. Balsa², P. Sarzi-Puttini³, H.-P. Tony⁴, I. de Torre⁵, V. Rogai⁶, F. Durand⁶, A. Jahangir⁵, S. Witt⁵, J. Zhong⁷, M. Dougados⁸. ¹Hopital Lapeyronie, Montpellier, France; ²Hospital Universitario la Paz, Madrid, Spain; ³Sacco Hospital, Milano, Italy; ⁴University Hospital of Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany; ⁵Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis; ⁶Eli Lilly and Company, Madrid; ⁷QuintilesIMS, Morrisville, United States; ⁸Rene Descartes Univ/ Cochin Hospital, Paris, France

Background: Patients (pts) with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) often experience comorbidities that may affect efficacy and safety when treated with different drugs.¹ Baricitinib (BARI) is a selective inhibitor of Janus kinase^{2,3} 1 and 2 that improves disease activity in pts with RA with an acceptable safety profile.⁴⁻⁶

Objectives: To investigate the effect of selected comorbidities on safety and efficacy outcomes in pts treated with BARI.

Methods: Pts were selected for this post hoc analysis on the basis of historical or ongoing conditions defined by Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities and divided by the following comorbidity subgroups: depression, osteoporosis, hepatic disorders, and previous cardiovascular events. Efficacy outcomes included 20% and 50% improvement in American College of Rheumatology 20 Response (ACR20) and American College of Rheumatology 50 Response (ACR50) criteria, respectively; the proportion of pts who achieved a Disease Activity Score for 28-joint count using high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (DAS28-hsCRP) score ≤ 3.2 ; and change from baseline in Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (HAQ-DI) at week 12. Pts who had an inadequate response (IR) to conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (cDMARDs) from 5 studies with BARI 4 mg and placebo (PBO) were included in efficacy analyses (N=1684) and safety analyses (N=1683). The interaction of comorbidity by treatment was analysed using logistic regression or analysis of variance modelling. Interaction tests were performed within each comorbidity subgroup, and the effect size in pts with and without the comorbidity was analysed.

Results: Pts in the efficacy set had similar baseline demographic and disease-activity characteristics across treatments within each comorbidity subgroup. The presence of a comorbid condition did not affect the incidence of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs), serious adverse events (AE), discontinuations, or deaths caused by AEs for BARI 4 mg vs PBO (Table 1). The most common TEAEs across the subgroups for BARI and PBO were nasopharyngitis and upper respiratory tract infection. For cDMARD-IR pts, change from baseline for each

comorbidity subgroup for ACR20, ACR50, DAS28-hsCRP ≤ 3.2 response, and HAQ-DI was higher for BARI 4 mg compared with PBO. Within each comorbidity subgroup, BARI responses compared with PBO were similar (interaction $P > 0.1$) (Table 2).

Table 1: Adverse Events Reported by Selected Comorbidity up to Week 16

Baricitinib 4 mg n (%)	Depression (N=64)	Osteoporosis (N=113)	CV Event (N=350)	Hepatic Event (N=222)	Overall (N=802)
Any TEAE	45 (70.3)	70 (61.9)	227 (64.9)	152 (68.5)	495 (61.7)
Serious AE	0	9 (8.0)	14 (4.0)	8 (3.6)	25 (3.1)
Discon due to AEs	1 (1.6)	7 (6.2)	14 (4.0)	9 (4.1)	25 (3.1)
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Placebo (N=69)	(N=64)	(N=113)	(N=381)	(N=202)	(N=881)
Any TEAE	57 (82.6)	91 (67.9)	228 (59.8)	119 (58.9)	494 (56.1)
Serious AE	6 (8.7)	9 (6.7)	16 (4.2)	5 (2.5)	31 (3.5)
Discon due to AEs	3 (4.3)	9 (6.7)	12 (3.1)	6 (3.0)	24 (2.7)
Deaths	1 (1.4)	1 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	0	1 (0.1)

Abbreviations: AE=adverse event; CV=cardiovascular; Discon=discontinuations; TEAE=treatment-emergent adverse event.

Table 2: Efficacy Outcomes Reported by Selected Subgroup at Week 12

Baricitinib 4 mg n (%)	Depression (N=64)	Osteoporosis (N=113)	CV Event (N=350)	Hepatic Event (N=222)	Overall (N=803)
ACR20, NRI, n (%)	38 (59.4)	74 (65.5)	239 (68.3)	149 (67.1)	542 (67.5)
ACR50, NRI, n (%)	22 (34.4)	46 (40.7)	143 (40.9)	90 (40.5)	330 (41.4)
DAS28-hsCRP ≤ 3.2 , mLOCF, n (%)	20 (31.3)	53 (46.9)	157 (44.9)	95 (42.8)	352 (43.8)
HAQ-DI, mLOCF* N-Obs, LSM (SE)	63, -0.46 (0.14)	111, -0.36 (0.07)	347, -0.54 (0.04)	219, -0.58 (0.08)	792, -0.53 (0.03)
Placebo (N=69)	(N=64)	(N=113)	(N=381)	(N=202)	(N=881)
ACR20, NRI, n (%)	22 (31.9)	43 (32.1)	155 (40.7)	75 (37.1)	345 (39.2)
ACR50, NRI, n (%)	6 (9.7)	16 (11.9)	55 (14.4)	23 (11.4)	127 (14.4)
DAS28-hsCRP ≤ 3.2 , mLOCF, n (%)	9 (13.0)	17 (12.7)	60 (15.7)	26 (12.9)	146 (16.2)
HAQ-DI, mLOCF* N-Obs, LSM (SE)	68, -0.20 (0.13)	131, -0.08 (0.07)	374, -0.27 (0.04)	201, -0.28 (0.08)	868, -0.25 (0.03)

Abbreviations: ACR20 = 20% improvement in American College of Rheumatology 20 Response criteria; ACR50 = 50% improvement in American College of Rheumatology 50 Response criteria; CV = cardiovascular; DAS28-hsCRP = Disease Activity Score for 28-joint count using high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; HAQ-DI = Health Assessment Questionnaire-Disability Index (patient-reported questionnaire with 24 questions in 8 domains: dressing/grooming, eating, walking, hygiene, reaching, grip, and activities); LSM = least squares mean; mLOCF = modified last observation carried forward; N-Obs = number of patients in the analysis; NRI = nonresponder imputation; SE = standard error

*LSM and SE were calculated using analysis of variance model.

Conclusions: Treatment with BARI 4 mg showed similar effect in selected comorbidity subgroups with depression, osteoporosis, cardiovascular events, and hepatic impairment for efficacy and safety. No trends were noted for pts in each comorbidity subgroup for increased risk of events after treatment with BARI 4 mg compared with PBO.

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FRI0087 LOW RATES OF RADIOGRAPHIC PROGRESSION OF STRUCTURAL JOINT DAMAGE OVER 2 YEARS OF BARICITINIB TREATMENT IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

D. van der Heijde¹, M. Schiff², Y. Tanaka³, R. Klar⁴, L. Xie⁵, G. Meszaros⁵, T. Ishii⁵, M. Casillas⁵, R. Ortmann⁵, P. Emery⁶. ¹Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands; ²University of Colorado, Denver, United States; ³School of Medicine, Kitakyushu, Japan; ⁴Quintiles IMS Holdings, Inc, Durham; ⁵Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, United States; ⁶University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

Background: In ph3 studies, baricitinib (bari) inhibited progression of radiographic joint damage for up to 1 year in patients (pts) with active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who were DMARD-naïve or who had an inadequate response to conventional synthetic DMARDs (csDMARD-IR).

Objectives: To evaluate radiographic progression of structural joint damage in pts with RA over 2 years of treatment.

Methods: Upon completion of a bari ph 3 study, pts could enter a long-term extension (LTE) study, in which they continued to receive the same bari dose as in the original ph3 study. At 52 wks, DMARD-naïve pts receiving methotrexate (MTX) or combination therapy (bari 4mg + MTX) were switched to bari 4mg monotherapy; MTX-IR pts receiving adalimumab (ADA) were switched to bari