Figure 1: Flow cytometry analysis of IL-6 expressing CD138+ plasma cells in the peripheral blood of RA patients before and after anti-TNF therapy. The percentage of IL-6+ plasma cells in the CD138+ population was significantly higher in active RA patients compared to remission or healthy controls. 

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EFFECTS OF RITUXIMAB ON THE INFLAMMATORY AND PRO-THROMBOTIC PROFILES OF NON-B CELLS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS


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Background: The role of rituximab (RTX) in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients is well established. However, the effects of RTX on the inflammatory and pro-thrombotic profiles of non-B cells in RA and SLE patients remain unclear.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of RTX on the inflammatory and pro-thrombotic profiles of non-B cells in RA and SLE patients.

Methods: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated from RA (n=15) and SLE (n=10) patients before and after RTX therapy. The expression of inflammatory and pro-thrombotic markers on non-B cells was assessed using flow cytometry.

Results: RTX therapy led to a significant decrease in the expression of inflammatory markers (e.g., TNF-α, IL-1β) and pro-thrombotic markers (e.g., von Willebrand factor, fibrinogen) on non-B cells in both RA and SLE patients.

Conclusions: RTX therapy has a significant impact on the inflammatory and pro-thrombotic profiles of non-B cells in RA and SLE patients, indicating potential therapeutic benefits beyond B-cell depletion.

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