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THU0545

CHARACTERISING A MOUSE MODEL OF TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT (TMJ) ARTHRITIS TO STUDY OROFACIAL PAIN AND INFLAMMATION

X. Kodji¹, J.D.S. Valente¹, F. Lundy², I. El Karim², S.D. Brain¹. ¹BHF Centre of Excellence, Vascular Biology and Inflammation, King's College London, London; ²The Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine, School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, UK

Background: The temporomandibular joints (TMJ) encompass the jawbones (mandibular condyle) and the skull region (temporal bone)¹. Dysfunctions in these joints and surrounding muscles result in a condition known as TMJ disorder (TMD), which include mastication-related pain. 16%–59% of patients reported painful symptoms while 33%–86% of these patients showed clinical signs¹. Currently, the etiology of TMD is unknown, although lavage samples from patients showed signs of synovitis, which may lead to the development of degenerative disorders, such as TMJ arthritis². There are only a few murine models available, as the most commonly used animal model is TMJ arthritis in rats.

Objectives: We aimed to characterise a mouse model of TMJ arthritis by mimicking the formation of synovitis using zymosan. We sought to characterise the development of orofacial pain by performing various behavioural measurements and measure joint inflammation.

Methods: All *in vivo* procedures were carried out according to the UK Home Office Animals (Scientific Procedure) Act 1986. Male CD1 mice (6–8 weeks) were anaesthetised transiently using 2% isoflurane. Zymosan (10, 30, or 100 µg; 10 µl), or saline was administered unilaterally into the TMJ as previously described³. Spontaneous pain behaviours were observed by counting the number of unilateral cheek wipes. All studies were terminated by cervical dislocation and the tissue was collected for *ex vivo* analyses. Mean ± SEM was calculated and data were analysed by unpaired Student's T-test or 2-way repeated measures ANOVA with Bonferroni's *post hoc* test. *p* < 0.05 was accepted as statistically significant.

Results: A dose response study showed that 30 µg, but not 10 µg and 100 µg of zymosan, resulted in a maximal wiping response at 2 hours, which was maintained at 4 hours (table 1; ****p* < 0.001 zymosan ipsi vs saline ipsi; ## *p* < 0.01 zymosan ipsi vs contra). Hind paw scratching was negligible. Hence, 30 µg was used for subsequent experiments. Increased neutrophils (measured by MPO assay) was observed in zymosan-treated joints (table 1 ***p* < 0.01 saline ipsi vs zymosan ipsi), while a similar trend was also observed in 3-nitrotyrosine protein expression, a marker of protein nitrosylation (*p* = 0.053). Preliminary studies are being undertaken to characterise other inflammatory markers in addition to the development of *in vivo* orofacial mechanical hyperalgesia using the Von Frey filaments.

Table 1 A summary of zymosan-mediated spontaneous orofacial pain behaviours and inflammation.

	Saline (n=4)				Zymosan							
					10 µg (n=6)		30 µg (n=5)		100 µg (n=6)			
	Ipsi	Contra	Ipsi	Contra	Ipsi	Contra	Ipsi	Contra	Ipsi	Contra	Ipsi	Contra
Unilateral cheek wipe (no. of events)	5.0 ±1.0	5.5 ±1.9	5.7 ±2.6	6.0 ±1.2	22.0 ±4.4	8.2 ±2.6	5.3 ±3.3	3.1 ±1.2				
					*** ##							
Unilateral hind paw scratching (no. of events)	0.5 ±0.5	0.0 ±0.0	1.0 ±0.7	4.5 ±2.6	3.4 ±0.8	2.1 ±1.0	0.4 ±0.2	0.4 ±0.2				
MPO (U/mg of protein)	0.01 ± 0.003				N/A				0.08 ± 0.01 **			
3-nitrotyrosine/GAPDH	2.3 ± 0.4								3.8 ± 0.5			

Conclusions: We have established a mouse model of TMJ arthritis, which showed significant orofacial pain responses *in vivo*. Our data highlights an inflammatory profile typical of zymosan and shows a potential use for this model to investigate novel TMD treatments.

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Paediatric rheumatology

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CHILDREN WITH PSORIASIS ALSO SHOW ENTHESOPATHY SIGNS RELATED TO SKIN DISEASE ACTIVITY

T.C. Meneghetti, T.M. Padilha, V.F. Azevedo, V.O. Carvalho. *Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil*

Background: Many recent evidences shows the role of enthesopathy in psoriatic disease and the high prevalence of musculoskeletal widespread pain in patients with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. It may be very difficult to distinguish between inflammatory disease activity and fibromyalgia. Limited data are available about the prevalence of rheumatological findings in children with psoriasis.

Objectives: To determine the prevalence of musculoskeletal pain complaints, enthesitis and tender points in a population of children and adolescents with psoriasis and correlate it to the skin disease activity and quality of life.

Methods: 26 children and adolescents with psoriasis were included in this cross sectional study and assigned a written informed consent. Patients and parents were interviewed about musculoskeletal complaints, personal and familiar history of rheumatic diseases. A paediatric rheumatologist performed the physical examination, which included evaluation of active joint count, palpation of entheses and tender points of fibromyalgia. A paediatric dermatologist performed PASI score and BSA to assess skin disease activity. Nails involvement were assessed by NAPS. The functional capacity was assessed by CHAQ. The quality of life was assessed by CDLQI.

Results: Participants were 69% female, with a mean age of 10.1 ± 3.0 years at observation. The median of age at the beginning of skin disease was 3 (0.5–12) years. PASI median was 4 (0.6–30.2), BSA 6 (2–39) and NAPS 12.3–36. A severe PASI above 5 were present in 38.5%. Complaints of any kind of musculoskeletal recurrent pain were seen in 46.1% of the patients and lumbar pain in 15.4%. Pain, limit on motion or joint oedema were seen in 26.9% whereas tenderness on palpation of any site of enthesitis was found in 30.7% and tenderness on palpation of sacroiliac joint was found in 19.2% of the patients. The median of fibromyalgia tender points was 5 (0–16). The presence of enthesitis was associated to the skin disease activity scores of PASI (*p* < 0.006), BSA (*p* < 0.016) and nail index NAPS (*p* < 0.05) (figure 1). As expected, the presence of enthesitis was associated to the number of tender points (*p* < 0.001). For those with a severe PASI > 5, we found a higher number of tender points (Med 0 versus 10; *p* < 0.03), a worst functional capacity by CHAQ (Med 0 versus 0.12; *p* < 0.03) and worst quality of life by CDLQI (Med 1 versus 9; *p* < 0.05).

Conclusions: High prevalence of musculoskeletal pain symptoms, enthesitis and fibromyalgia tender points was observed in this sample of children and adolescents with psoriasis. Differently from adults, we do not expect to have age-related degenerative changes in entheses in this population, what reinforce the inflammatory origin of these rheumatologic findings. Otherwise, the association with the severity of psoriasis increases the need for vigilance against the appearance of psoriatic spondyloarthropathy in this group.