tolerance and the development of systemic autoimmune disease.

Objectives To determine the extent of cellular senescence of LNSCs during early phases of systemic autoimmunity.

Methods We included individuals with arthralgia without any evidence of arthritis who were positive for IgM rheumatoid factor (IgM-RF) and/or anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA; RA-risk group), early arthritis patients (ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria; disease duration <1 year) and seronegative healthy controls. All study subjects underwent ultrasound-guided inguinal lymph node biopsy. LNSCs were cultured from freshly collected lymph node needle biopsies and passages 0–9 were used for experiments. Flow cytometry, qPCR and microscopy were used to measure cell size, granularity, senescence-associated gene expression levels, telomere attrition and senescence-associated β -galactosidase (SA β -gal) activity.

Results Preliminary flow cytometry data shows that the cell size of LNSCs from RA patients (n=11) and RA-risk individuals (n=7) is increased compared with healthy LNSCs (n=7), while granularity was specifically increased in LNSCs from RA patients (n=9). Initial SA β -gal stainings indicate higher activity in LNSCs from RA-risk (n=3) and RA patients (n=4) compared with healthy controls (n=2), however this data needs to be carefully interpreted and more donors should be analysed. Expression levels of senescence-associated genes significantly increased over culture passages and significantly higher p21 and p53 levels were observed in passage 9 LNSCs from RA patients compared with healthy controls (n=6 per group).

Conclusions These preliminary findings provide a rationale for studying cellular senescence in LNSCs in more detail during different phases of RA and to investigate the consequence of senescent LNSCs on immune cell responses upon their interaction.

Disclosure of Interest None declared.

P113/017 HUMAN LYMPH NODE STROMAL CELLS EXPRESS SELF-ANTIGENS TARGETED BY ANTI-CITRULLINATED PROTEIN ANTIBODIES: ROLE FOR TOLERANCE INDUCTION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

^{1,2}C Grasso*, ^{1,2}JS Hähnlein, ³R Nadafi, ^{1,2}TA De Jong, ^{1,2}TH Ramwadhoebe, ^{1,2}JF Semmelink, ²DM Gerlag, ²PP Tak, ³RE Mebius, ²M Safy, ⁴M Maas, ⁵AI Catrina, ⁵H Wähämaa, ^{1,2}LGM Van Baarsen. ¹Amsterdam Rheumatology and Immunology Center (ARC), Academic Medical Center; ²Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, the Department of Experimental Immunology, Amsterdam Infection and Immunity Institute, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam; ³Department of Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology, Amsterdam UMC, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, VU medical center; ⁴Department of Radiology, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands; ⁵Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, Sweden, Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

10.1136/annrheumdis-2018-EWRR2019.101

Career situation of first and presenting author Student for a master or a PhD.

Introduction In rheumatoid arthritis (RA) the cause for loss of tolerance and anti-citrullinated protein antibody (ACPA) production remains unidentified. Mouse studies showed that peripheral tolerance can be maintained through presentation of peripheral tissue antigens (PTAs) by lymph node stromal cells (LNSCs). We hypothesize that

deregulation of peripheral tolerance mechanisms mediated by LNSCs might underlie pathogenesis of RA. Here we investigated the expression of PTAs, citrullinated proteins and immunomodulatory molecules by human LNSCs during health and autoimmunity.

Methods LN tissue sections and LNSCs were prepared from freshly collected lymph node needle biopsies obtained from 24 patients with RA, 23 individuals positive for autoantibodies but without clinical apparent disease (RA-risk group) and 14 seronegative healthy controls. Expression of PADI enzymes, citrullinated proteins, DEAF1, AIRE and PTAs was investigated at mRNA and protein level. Expression of immunomodulatory molecules in LNSCs was assessed after stimulation with IFN γ (n=15).

Results Citrullinated proteins, targeted by ACPA, were found in human LN tissue as well as in cultured LNSCs. In addition, we observed the expression of transcription factors AIRE and DEAF1 as well as disease-related PTAs in LNSCs with some PTAs showing a distinct expression pattern in autoimmune LNSCs compared to healthy controls. TGF- β was constitutively expressed by LNSCs while CD86 or IL-10 were not detected. Upon IFN γ stimulation LNSCs upregulated MHC class II, co-stimulatory molecules CD40 and CD80 as well as T cell negative regulators CD274, NOS2 and IDO. Overall, no clear differences between donor groups were observed for these markers with exception of a slightly lower induction of CD40 and NOS2 in RA LNSCs.

Conclusions We present for the first time that human LNSCs express several PTAs and the transcription factors AIRE and DEAF1, driving PTA expression. Additionally, human LNSCs express molecules involved in citrullination, antigen presentation and immunomodulation. Moreover, antigens targeted by ACPAs are present in LN tissue and LNSCs. These data suggest that LNSCs have the machinery to regulate peripheral tolerance.

Disclosure of Interest None declared.

P114 TISSUE REGENERATION AND BONE REPAIR UPON TNF BLOCKADE IN EXPERIMENTAL ARTHRITIS

K Wanic, on behalf of First author, M Kalkgruber, B Niederreiter, T Shvets, J Smolen, S Hayer*. Medical University of Vienna, Dep Medicine III, Div Rheumatology, Vienna, Austria

10.1136/annrheumdis-2018-EWRR2019.102

Career situation of first and presenting author Student for a master or a PhD.

Introduction Partial bone repair upon treatment with biological DMARDs has been reported in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). Previous *in vivo* PET/CT studies using the human tumor necrosis factor transgenic mouse model (hTNFtg) have been demonstrated the reversibility of pre-existing inflammatory, erosive arthritis with complete remission of synovial inflammation and repair of bone erosions upon TNF blockade.

Objectives To investigate spontaneous repair and regenerative processes of structural joint damage in ankle and knee joint, menisci and patella tendon upon TNF blockade in hTNFtg mice.

Methods Two cohorts of arthritic hTNFtg mice were treated with anti-TNF ab (infliximab, 10 mg/kg, 3x per week, i.p.,