Objectives: To verify the hypothesis about the role of SAA1 rs12218 T / C gene polymorphism in the aptitude to various clinical JIA phenotypes.

Methods: The study included 132 children, of whom 66 were diagnosed with JIA and 66 were healthy unrelated volunteers (the college students) as a control group, comparable by gender and age. The group of patients with JIA consisted of 44 girls and 22 boys, with an average age of 11.7 ± 4.2 years and an average disease duration of 4.8 ± 3.8 years. The diagnosis and classification of JIA was established according to ILAR-2004 criteria. The JIA group included 30 (45%) patients with oligoarthritis (oJIA), of which 20 patients (67%) were positive for the HLA-B27 antigen (JIA-B27 +) and 10 (33%) patients with anterior uveitis (uJIA); 20 (30%) patients were assigned to the group with the polyarticular variant (pJIA), while all of them were seronegative for the rheumatoid factor; 16 (24%) patients were diagnosed with JIA with a systemic onset (sJIA). The frequencies of the T / C polymorphism of the SAA1 gene were assessed using an allele-specific polymerase chain reaction in a real time mode (RT-PCR).

Results: In the group of patients diagnosed with oJIA and (JIA-B27 +), the frequency of the C allele was significantly higher compared to the control (53.3% and 57.5% versus 37.1%, $p = 0.035$ and 0.022 , respectively). No significant differences were detected in the frequencies of the mutant C allele between sJIA and pJIA and the control group. The logistics analysis of the frequency distribution of the alleles of the SAA1 gene demonstrated an increased risk of the C allele in formation of an aptitude to the oJIA variant (OR 1.94, 95% CI 1.00-3.76, $p = 0.035$). In the oJIA-B27 (+) group, the risk of an aptitude was also increased compared to the control (OR 2.29, 95% CI 1.05-5.04, $p = 0.022$).

Conclusion: The data obtained confirm for the first time the involvement of the rs12218 polymorphism of the SAA1 gene in an aptitude to the oligoarthritis JIA clinical phenotype. The presented results require further replication researches using an enlarged number of patients from different population groups.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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AB0020

CORRELATION BETWEEN SERUM AND SYNOVIAL CONCENTRATION OF IL-17A AND MIRNA EXPRESSION IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

R. Shumnalieva¹, D. Kachakova², T. Velikova³, R. Kaneva², Z. Kolarov¹, S. Monov¹. ¹Medical University – Sofia, Bulgaria, Department of Internal Medicine, Clinic of Rheumatology, Sofia, Bulgaria; ²Medical University – Sofia, Department of Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine Center, Sofia, Bulgaria; ³Clinical Immunology, University Hospital Lozenetz, Sofia, Bulgaria

Background: Interleukin 17 (IL-17) is a proinflammatory cytokine, which overproduction promotes the autoimmune reaction in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Posttranscriptional regulation of IL-17 by specific microRNAs (miRNAs) is of great interest in the recent years. 146a was associated with IL-17 expression in IL-17 producing T-cells in the synovium when miR-155 enhanced Treg and Th17 cells differentiation and IL-17A production by directly targeting the suppressor of cytokine signaling (SOCS) 1 [1, 2]. It has been shown that IL-17 production in lymphocytes or its function could be regulated by miR-223 by targeting Roquin ubiquitin ligase or its receptors [3].

Objectives: To examine a possible correlation between systemic and local concentrations of IL-17A and systemic and local miR-146a, miR-155 and miR-223 expression in RA patients.

Methods: Expression levels of three miRNAs were determined in matched peripheral blood (PB) and synovial fluid (SF) samples of RA patients by relative quantitation method $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$. As reference control for normalization RNU6B gene was used. Concentrations of IL-17A were compared between matched serum and SF samples from 20 RA patients by Human IL-17A ELISA kit (Gene probe, Diaclone, France). Healthy donors were used as controls.

Results: miR-146a, miR-155 and miR-223 showed overexpression in RA SF when compared to HCs SF (in 70.83%, $p=0.007$; in 79.17%, $p=1.63 \times 10^{-4}$ and in 79.17%, $p=1.64 \times 10^{-3}$, respectively). The ROC curve analysis showed diagnostic accuracy for miR-146a in SF with AUC=0.769, $p=0.006$, AUC for SF miR-155 was 0.858, $p=2.3 \times 10^{-4}$ and AUC for SF miR-223 was 0.841 $p=4.6 \times 10^{-4}$. SF levels of miR-146a and miR-155 were overexpressed in 52.17% and in 76.09% of the RA patients compared to its systemic levels. SF miR-223 was underexpressed in 58.7% of the patients compared to its systemic levels. Levels of IL-17A were higher in RA SF compared to serum (8.645 pg/ml versus 0.315 pg/ml, $p=0.012$). ROC curve analysis for SF IL-17A showed area under the curve (AUC) = 0.885, $p<0.000$.

Conclusion: The difference between the systemic and local concentration of IL-17A and miRNAs expression shows that the inflammatory disease process leads to their altered expression with a possible role of these molecules in the disease pathogenesis. The higher local levels of miR-155, miR-146 and IL-17A confirm the data about the possible role of these miRNAs in regulating IL-17A

production. The opposite changes of IL-17A and miR-223 systemic and local levels confirm the data about the possible role of miR-223 in regulating IL-17 function. Further analysis with larger sets is needed to confirm these results.

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AB0021

VARIABILITY OF THE RS333 IN LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS FROM THE POLISH POPULATION

K. Skonieczna¹, D. Mlicka¹, A. Woźniacka², R. Czajkowski³, E. Robak², M. Gawrych³, A. Duleba¹, T. Grzybowski¹. ¹Collegium Medicum, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Department of Forensic Medicine, Bydgoszcz, Poland; ²Medical University of Łódź, Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Łódź, Poland; ³Collegium Medicum, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Bydgoszcz, Poland

Background: There are several subtypes of *Lupus Erythematosus* (LE), which may be limited to the skin (eg. *Discoid Lupus Erythematosus*, DLE) or involve multiple organ dysfunctions (*Systemic Lupus Erythematosus*, SLE). LE is an autoimmune disease that is influenced by genetic and environmental factors. Despite some genetic changes between DLE and SLE were previously shown, the complete genetic background of DLE is still unresolved [1]. Functional C-C chemokine receptor 5 (CCR5) receptor can be associated with the inflammation in LE patients. Importantly, the 32 base pairs (bp) deletion in CCR5 gene (rs333) leads to a nonfunctional receptor. Previous studies have shown that this mutation may have a protective effect on the development and progression of SLE [2, 3]. Thus it was important to investigate whether 32 bp deletion in rs333 is also associated with DLE development.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the variability of the CCR5 gene, within a polymorphic locus rs333 in SLE and DLE patients from the Polish population.

Methods: 120 LE patients (77 SLE patients and 43 DLE patients) and 100 healthy persons were recruited to the study from the Polish population. DNA was isolated from blood or buccal swabs. rs333 was genotyped by using polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Statistical significance of the differences between patient and control groups in both allele and genotype frequencies were calculated using Chi-Squared test with Yates correction or two tailed Fisher's exact test.

Results: Deletion allele of the rs333 was significantly less frequent among DLE patients than healthy persons ($p = 0.0171$). Also the heterozygotes occur significantly less frequent within DLE patients group than in healthy individuals ($p = 0.0375$). Moreover, homozygotes without deletion in rs333 were found significantly more frequent in persons diagnosed with DLE than in healthy volunteers ($p = 0.0214$). In contrast, the differences in allele or genotype frequencies between SLE patients and healthy controls were not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$). Moreover, the rs333 variability was not associated with clinical symptoms of LE patients ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusion: Summarizing, the results obtained in this study suggest that the 32 bp deletion within rs333 could be a protective factor, that reduce the risk for DLE but not SLE development in the Polish population. However, due to the low statistical power of the obtained results, further studies on larger groups of patients and controls are needed to acquire more reliable data.

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AB0022

INTERRELATIONS OF INCREASED AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS ACTIVITY AND THE SERUM CONCENTRATION OF IMMUNOGLOBULIN A TO CD74 WITH GENETIC POLYMORPHISMS OF INTERLEUKIN 17 ALLELES

E. Vasilenko^{1,2}, M. Korolev³, S. Lapin⁴, I. Kholopova⁴, A. Dadalova¹, V. Mazurov¹, I. Gaydukova^{1,2}. ¹North-Western State Medical University named after I.I. Mechnikov, Department of Therapy, Rheumatology, Examination of Temporary Disability and Quality of Medical Care named after E.E. Eichwald, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation; ²St. Petersburg Clinical Rheumatology Hospital No.25, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation; ³The Federal Research Center Institute of Cytology and Genetics, Novosibirsk, Russian Federation; ⁴The First Pavlov State Medical University of St. Petersburg, Laboratory for Diagnostics of Autoimmune Diseases, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

Background: Genetic predisposition takes one of the main parts at pathogenesis of axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). Currently, HLA-B27 is a single genetic marker that used in classification criteria of axSpA. However, the presence of HLA-B27 does not affect the activity of the disease. An alternative biomarker of axSpA activity could be an immunoglobulin (Ig) A antibody to an invariant chain peptide associated with class II human leukocyte antigen (HLA) (anti-CD74).

Objectives: The goal is to determine genetic polymorphisms of IL17 alleles prevalence in patients (pts) with axSpA and their interrelations with the disease activity and concentration of IgA to CD74.

Methods: In 48 patients with a reliable diagnosis of axSpA, aged 18 to 69 years ASDAS, BASDAI, BASFI were calculated. The polymorphisms of alleles of interleukin (IL)-17A197 a/g, IL-17F7 histidine (His)/arginine (Arg), IL-17F11139 c/g, HLA-B27 were evaluated. Serum concentration of IgA to CD74 was measured (the normal reference interval according to the instructions for the laboratory kit for serum IgA to CD74 is 0-12.0 U/L).

Results: The mean age of pts was 45.1±14.2 years, male 72.9%, BASDAI 2.99±0.28, ASDAS 2.29±0.16 (Cronbach's alpha for the scales – 0.830), IgA to CD74 16.9±11.0 mg/L. The most often found polymorphisms of interleukin-17 alleles demonstrated in **table 1**.

Table 1. Interleukin-17 alleles' polymorphisms in patients with axial spondyloarthritis, n=48

Indicator	Pts with presence of polymorphism, n	Indicator	Pts with presence of polymorphism, n
IL-17A-197 AA	14	IL-17F7 his/his	45
IL-17A-197 GG	18	IL-17F7 his/arg	2
IL-17A-197 GG	16	IL-17F7 arg/arg	1
IL-17F-11139 CG	26	IL-17F-11139 CC	22

Exceeded levels of IgA to CD74 were identified at 96 pts (70.1%). The factor analysis showed a relationship between ASDAS (R=0.857), BASDAI (R=0.842), BASFI (R=0.857) and level of IgA to CD74 (R=0.667), (**table 2**).

Table 2. Interrelations between serum concentration of IgA to CD74, the activity indices and genetic polymorphisms of interleukin-17 alleles in axSpA patients (factor loads), n=48

Indicator	Factor loading (R)		
Factor	Factor 1	Factor	Factor 1
IgA anti-CD74	0.525	0.925	0.667
BASDAI	0.734	0.816	0.842
ASDAS	0.657	0.576	0.857
BASFI	0.545		0.820
IL-17 F7 His/His	-0.421		
IL-17F7 His/Arg	0.631	0.544	

An increase in the factor load indices for IgA to CD74 (R=0.925) was established, provided that the IL-17F genotype is homozygous for the his / arg allele (R=0.544). The genotypes IL-17F his/his showed an inverse interrelation with the increase in serum IgA to CD74 level (R=-0.421).

Conclusion: Serum concentration of IgA to CD74 exceeded normal reference level in axSpA patients in 70.1% of cases that was associated with ASDAS and BASDAI levels. Presence of heterozygote IL-17F polymorphism in his/arg allele was associated with increasing serum concentration of IgA to CD74 and with increased disease activity (ASDAS and BASDAI). Decreasing of serum IgA to CD74 concentration, less axSpA activity (ASDAS and BASDAI) were found in patients with presence of heterozygote IL-17F polymorphism in his/his allele.

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AB0023

ASSOCIATION OF NCF2, NCF4 AND CYBA GENES POLYMORPHISMS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN A CHINESE POPULATION

T. P. Zhang¹, Q. Huang², H. F. Pan², D. Q. Ye², X. Li³ on behalf of no. ¹The First Affiliated Hospital of University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China; ²Anhui Medical University, Hefei, China; ³The First Affiliated Hospital of University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China

Background: Recent studies have focused on the special roles of NADPH-oxidase, which is composed of gp91phox, p22phox, p47phox, p67phox, p40phox encoded by *CYBB*, *CYBA*, *NCF1*, *NCF2*, *NCF4* genes, in multiple autoimmune diseases. Nevertheless, the association of genetic variation in NADPH-oxidase genes with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) was not extensively studied in Chinese population.

Objectives: We performed this study to examine the association of *NCF2*, *NCF4*, *CYBA* genes polymorphisms with RA susceptibility in a Chinese population.

Methods: Six single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) (*NCF2* rs10911363, *NCF4* rs1883112, rs4821544, rs729749, *CYBA* rs3794624, rs4673) were genotyped in a cohort composed of 593 RA patients and 596 normal controls. All patients were consecutively enrolled from the Department of Rheumatology at the First Affiliated Hospital of University of Science and Technology of China and the First Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University, and the normal controls was enrolled from the same region. Improved multiple ligase detection reaction (iMLDR) was used for genotyping. Chi-square (χ^2) test was used to analyze the association of the genotype and allele frequencies of above SNPs and RA. Odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI) were also evaluated using Logistic regression analyses, and haplotype analysis was assessed using SHESis software.

Results: There were 101 males and 492 females in RA group with a mean age of 51.59±6.68 years, and the normal control group included 97 males and 499 females with an average age of 52.32±12.63 years. We observed that *NCF4* rs4821544 CT genotype, C allele frequencies in RA patients were significantly decreased when compared to controls (CT vs. TT: $P = 0.043$; C vs. T: $P = 0.031$), and rs4821544 polymorphism was significantly associated with an increased RA risk under the dominant model (TT vs. CT+CC: $P = 0.031$). Moreover, our results also indicated that rs729749 CT genotype frequency was significantly lower in RA patients than that in controls (CT vs. CC: $P = 0.033$). No significant association between *NCF2*, *CYBA* genes polymorphisms and RA susceptibility was observed. There were no significant differences in allele, genotype frequencies of above SNPs between RA patients with RF-positive and with RF-negative, as well as anti-CCP-positive RA patients and anti-CCP-negative RA patients.

Conclusion: In summary, *NCF4* rs4821544, rs729749 polymorphisms might contribute to RA susceptibility, while *NCF2*, *CYBA* genes polymorphisms were not associated with RA susceptibility.

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