AB1001

CHANGES IN THE PARATHYROID HORMONE LEVEL IN CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS

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Background: It is proved that rheumatic diseases are accompanied by pronounced changes in calcium-phosphorus metabolism, which underlies the development of osteopenia syndrome. If in previous years glucocorticosteroid therapy (GCS) was considered to be the main reason for this, then the role of pro-inflammatory agents (activity of the pathological process), provision with vitamin D (VitD), and the effect of basic therapy are currently being discussed. It is also known that a decrease blood level of vitamin D leads to a violation of the absorption of calcium and phosphorus, a further increase in the level of parathyroid hormone, which underlies the risk of a decrease in bone mineral density. **Objectives:** To study the level of parathyroid hormone in children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, its relationship with the course of the disease and vitamin D status.

Methods: 91 patients with JIA (61 girls and 30 boys), with polyarticular (n = 41), oligoarticular (n = 29) and undifferentiated (n = 18) variants of JIA were examined. The age of the patients was 10.5 ± 1.7 years. The duration of the disease was 4.1 ± 1.1 years. All children receive basic methotrexate therapy. The control group included 25 peers of the corresponding gender. JADAS27 was counted, the levels of 25-hydroxycalciferol (25-OH D) and PTH were determined by chemiluminescent method. Corresponded to the content of vitamin D in blood serum, the normal level was noted in 14 patients, insufficiency - in 41 patients, deficiency - in 32 patients.

Results: The level of PTH in children with JIA remained within physiological values (30.6 ± 2.1 pg/ml; from 12.7 to 61.8 pg/ml) despite the high frequency of a VitD decrease in blood (80.2%). The level of PTH was not significant in groups of patients with a different level of vitamin D (32.8 ± 2.1 pg/ml at deficiency group; 29.2 ± 2.4 pg/ml at insufficiency group; 29.1 ± 1.8 pg/ml at a normal level of VitD group). PTH was comparable and did not differ in children of different sexes. The highest level of PTH was in patients with a polyarticular variant of JIA (34.2 ± 4.5 pg/ml, $p < 0.05$), which was accompanied by the lowest level of vitamin D (20.9 ± 2.1 ng/ml, $p < 0.05$) in the same group. There was obtained reliable correlations of activity indicators (JADAS27) taking into account Vit D and PTH, as well as with diseases duration and age of patients ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: A study of the level of PTH in children with JIA did not show a significant increase depending on the vitamin D status in these patients. However, the age-related state of PTH is associated with the activity of the pathological process, the prevalence of articular syndrome and prolonged illness.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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AB1002

IS KAWASAKI DISEASE OR SYSTEMIC JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS IN CHILDREN WITH FEVER WITHOUT A SOURCE?

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Background: Fever without a source (FWS) is caused by various diseases, making differential diagnosis difficult. Clinical similarities between Kawasaki disease (KD) and systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (sJIA) are well known. Kawasaki disease (KD), a self-limiting systemic vasculitis, remains of unknown etiology and can cause irreversible coronary artery aneurysms (CAAs). SoJIA is sometimes confused with incomplete KD because both diseases have overlapping clinical features and can be accompanied with CAAs and/or sJIA with macrophage activation syndrome (MAS).

Objectives: In this study, the frequency of both KD and sJIA among the patients evaluated with FWS and the clinical features of patients diagnosed with Kawasaki disease.

Methods: Medical records of patients who first visited our department between January 2016 and December 2019 were reviewed

Results: A total of 107 patients were enrolled in this study, including 43 patients (40.2%, 23 males) who fulfilled the criteria of Kawasaki disease and 64 patients (59.8%, 39 males) who did not fulfill them. In patients who fulfilled the criteria of classical FWS, 36(33.6%, 20 males) patients were diagnosed with systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis. The mean age of the patients with Kawasaki disease was 30.0 ± 20.4 months (median 25 months), the mean age of other patients was 52.6 ± 40 months (median 39.5 months). The mean age of the patients with sJIA patients was 87.6 ± 49.8 (median 80 months). Kawasaki

patients were younger than others ($p=0.01$). There was no difference in gender between groups.

In Kawasaki patients, the most common clinical feature at diagnosis was fever (100%) followed by conjunctival congestion and mucosal changes (69%). The last two findings are more significant in Kawasaki patients than others ($p<0.00$). Twenty-six (59%) patients had completed KD while 25% had incomplete KD. 7 (16%) patients had atypical KD. The mean fever duration was longer in sJIA patients than KD and others (median 14,8 and 7 days, $p<0.00$). All patients with KD received IVIG (2 g/kg, infusion in 12 h) and aspirin (60 mg/kg/day). 13.6% of the patients also received oral corticosteroids because of IVIG resistance. Thirty-one patients (72.1%) responded to IVIG treatment, whereas 12 (6 female, 6 male) were IVIG resistant. CAI was detected in echocardiography at diagnosis in 10 (22.7%) (6 female; 4 male) patients. We also detected 4 patients pericarditis with/without CIA.

Conclusion: The clinical presentations of KD and sJIA are quite similar with fever, rash, hepatomegaly, and lymphadenopathy. All 2 entities may provide clues to potentially shared immunopathology.

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AB1003

ANTI-DFS70 AUTOANTIBODIES, JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS (JIA) AND UVEITIS: ARE ANTI-DFS70 A PREDICTIVE MARKER OF UVEITIS RISK IN JIA PATIENTS?

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Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common paediatric rheumatic disease. Its most threatening complication is represented by uveitis, which could cause severe visual impairment if not diagnosed and treated promptly. It is an asymptomatic uveitis and the diagnosis is only instrumental. Therefore, regular ophthalmologic surveillance is crucial in the management of JIA. To date there are no specific predictive markers of uveitis development among JIA patients, including serologic subsets. Anti-Nuclear Antibodies (ANA) positive patients have the highest risk of iridocyclitis, but ANA are not specific. They could be found in patients with JIA without uveitis, in many other rheumatologic and inflammatory conditions and also in healthy subjects (6-12% of children). Anti-DFS70 antibodies (ANA forming a specific pattern in immunofluorescence) have been taken into consideration, but their role has not yet been established in a pediatric setting. Currently, there are few reports, involving small groups of patients and with non-univocal results. Some studies report anti-DFS70 antibodies more frequently in children with rheumatological diseases, in particular JIA-related uveitis; on the contrary, others describe them in healthy ANA positive patients.

Objectives:

- 1) To evaluate the correlation between anti-DFS70 autoantibodies and the risk of developing uveitis in a cohort of patients with JIA ANA + in pediatric age;
- 2) to compare the prevalence of anti-DFS70 in patients with JIA, with a group of healthy ANA + children, to better define the role of these autoantibodies (potential risk factor or a protective factor for the development of AARDs in children?)

Methods: We evaluated retrospectively 51 patients with JIA ANA +. We divided these patients in two groups, according to the presence (n=11) or the absence (n=40) of uveitis. For each patient we evaluated: gender, current age, age at diagnosis, type of JIA, therapy, presence of other diseases, dosage of ANA (with IF-Hep2), research of anti-ENA and anti-DFS70 antibodies (with chemiluminescence). Subsequently the whole group of patients with JIA was compared with a control group of healthy subjects aged ≤ 18 years (n=30), followed in the pediatric rheumatology clinic for occasional finding of ANA positivity, without pathologies at the moment of the study (in particular without rheumatological or autoimmune diseases).

Results: Among patients with JIA without uveitis, anti-DFS70 autoantibodies were positive only in one patient. Anti-DFS70 were negative in all patients with JIA and uveitis. The difference between the two groups is not significant ($p=1$). In the group of healthy patients 6/30 (20%) presented a positivity of anti-DFS70 autoantibodies, in the absence of anti-ENA.

Conclusion: Our data revealed no correlation between the positivity of anti-DFS70 autoantibodies and the risk of uveitis in patients with JIA ANA +, even