of RA patients with different patterns of clinical manifestations as well as relationship between RA activity and XO, XDG, and SOD activities. RA patients had increased both mean XO and mean SOD activities ($p<0.001$ for both enzymes). XO activity reached its highest values at maximum disease activity and overt extra-articular involvements, while SOD activity did it in moderate and high disease activities as well as in patients with joint manifestations. XDG activity was increased in low disease activity ($p<0.001$) and solely joint lesions ($p=0.011$), while moderate or high disease activities ($p=0.008$) and extra-articular involvements ($p=0.025$) were characterized by decreased activity of this enzyme.

Conclusion: We have revealed substantial multidirectional changes of plasma XO and XDG activities in RA. Plasma enzymatic pattern in RA patients is characterized by activation of both oxidant and antioxidant metabolic pathways. Activities of XO and SOD were positively correlated with RA activity, while XDG activity was negative correlated with RA activity. The differences between selective articular RA type and RA form with extraarticular manifestations were also revealed. Changes in oxidant and antioxidant enzyme activities can be connected with anticitrulline autoimmunity in RA via production of citrulline-rich neutrophil extracellular traps, thus enhancing rheumatoid autoimmunity.

Disclosure of Interests: None declared

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AB0049

RELATIONSHIP OF RHEUMATOID FACTOR AND XANTHINE OXIDOREDUCTASE ENZYMATIC CONSTITUENTS IN SEVERAL BLOOD COMPARTMENTS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIC PATIENTS

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Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by the presence of rheumatoid factor (RF) and anticitrulline autoantibodies. Recent evidences suggest that impairment of neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) could exert substantial influence on RA pathogenesis. The production of NETs depends heavily on the ROS generation. One of its mechanisms is xanthine oxidoreductase (XOR) mediated degradation of purine metabolites. Analysis of pro-oxidant activity of the enzymatic complex XOR and its constituents, xanthine oxidase (XO) and xanthine dehydrogenase (XDG), is an issue of considerable interest in this context.

Objectives: Evaluation of XO and XDG activities in RF-positive and RF-negative RA using both plasma and lysed lymphocyte samples.

Methods: The research was carried out in agreement with the WMA Declaration of Helsinki principles. Diagnosis of RA had been verified using ACR/EULAR 2010 criteria. Enzymatic activities in plasma and lymphocytes were measured spectrophotometrically and expressed as nmol/min/ml. Enzymatic activities in lymphocytes were also normalized to 1×10^7 cells/ml. Statistical tests were selected in line with common guidelines. Differences were considered significant when $p<0.05$. Reference ranges were calculated as means ± 2 SD.

Results: 75 adult RA patients (52 females and 23 males, mean age 43.9 ± 0.97 years, mean disease duration 8.5 ± 0.3 years) from the rheumatology unit of Volgograd Clinical Emergency Hospital #25 as well as 35 healthy controls were included in the study. RF-positive RA and RF-negative RA were observed in 49 (65.3%) and 26 (34.7%) patients, respectively. Reference ranges for plasma and lymphocyte XO activities were 2.60-3.96 and 14.2-27.8 nmol/min/ml, respectively. Similar ranges for XDG activities were 4.49-5.93 and 22.5-40.7 nmol/min/ml, respectively. Enzymatic profile of RA patients is characterized by significantly increased XO activity in plasma and decreased XO and XDG activities in lymphocytes ($p<0.001$). XO activity is increased ($p<0.001$), XDG activity is decreased ($p<0.001$) in blood plasma of patients with RF-negative RA, while the activity of both enzymes is decreased in lymphocytes ($p<0.001$). XO activity ($p<0.001$) and XDG activity ($p<0.05$) is increased in blood plasma, XO activity and XDG activity are decreased ($p<0.001$) in lymphocytes of patients with RF-positive RA. Plasma XO and XDG activities are also higher, and lymphocyte XO and XDG activities are lower in patients with RF-positive RA than in patients with RF-negative RA ($p<0.001$).

Conclusion: Our study revealed the relationship between enzyme parameters and rheumatoid factor presence. More pronounced changes in the enzyme activities were observed in patients with RF-positive RA. These results demonstrate that activation of the xanthine oxidase/xanthine dehydrogenase enzyme complex is an substantial factor of induction and continuation of the autoimmune rheumatoid inflammation.

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AB0050

A NOVEL METHOD FOR ISOLATION OF EXOSOMES FROM SYNOVIAL FLUID

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Background: Exosomes in synovial fluid (SF) has a close relationship with the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis. As a complex biological fluid, SF presents challenges for exosomes isolation using standard methods, such as Exoquick™ kit and ultracentrifugation.

Objectives: The study aims to compared the quality of exosomes separated by Exoquick™ kit (TM), Exoquick™ kit+Exoquick™ TC kit (TM-TC), ultracentrifugation (UC) and TM-TC+UC (TM-TC-UC) from SF.

Methods: Exosomes was separated by TM, TM-TC, UC and TM-TC-UC respectively. The size and concentrations of exosomes were detected by high sensitivity flow cytometry for nanoparticle analysis. Total protein and RNA were extracted from exosomes. SDS-PAGE was used to detect the protein distribution of exosomes. Western blot was used to examine the level of albumin and exosomes marker (TSG101 and CD81).

Results: There was no statistic difference in the diameters of exosomes separated by the four methods. The concentrations of exosomes in TM, TM-TC, TM-TC-UC and UC were (5.65 ± 0.93), (3.02 ± 1.19), (1.67 ± 0.25) and (4.61 ± 0.73) $\times 10^9$ Particles/mL. The protein concentrations of exosomes separated by the four methods were consistent with the concentrations of exosomes. SDS-PAGE showed that the protein distribution of exosomes separated by the four methods were different. Low levels of albumin were detected in TM-TC and TM-TC-UC, while high levels of albumin in TM and UC. Total RNA concentrations from exosomes in TM-TC was higher than other groups.

Conclusion: TM-TC can be used to obtain higher quality exosomes from SF for the study of exosome-enriched components.

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Figure 1. A: SDS-PAGE showed the protein distribution of exosomes; **B:** the detection of albumin, TSG101 and CD81 by western blot.

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AB0051

THE EFFECTS OF NON-INVASIVE VAGUS NERVE STIMULATION ON IMMUNOLOGICAL RESPONSES AND PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOME MEASURES OF FATIGUE IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME, FIBROMYALGIA, AND RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

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Background: Fatigue is reported as a common symptom among autoimmune and other chronic diseases such as fibromyalgia (FM), a long-term condition with uncertain pathophysiology. Previous studies from our group suggest that non-invasive vagus nerve stimulation (nVNS) may contribute to the improvement of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) of fatigue in patients with primary Sjögren's Syndrome (1).

Objectives: This follow-up study uses the gammaCore device (electroCore) to assess the effect of nVNS on PROMs of fatigue and immune responses in chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), FM and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Methods: The study included thirteen CFS, fourteen FM and fifteen RA patients who used the gammaCore nVNS device twice daily over a 26-day period. Pre- and post- nVNS bloods were drawn at baseline and final visits. Whole blood