Conclusion: Preliminary data seem to indicate that abatcept can promote the in vitro shift from the M1 to the M2 macrophage phenotype, by upregulating specific markers (CD163, CD204, CD206) in cultured M1-MDMs from RA patients and in M1 macrophages induced from HS.

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Disclosure of Interests: Samuele Tardito: None declared, Stefano Soldano: None declared, Emanuele Gotelli: None declared, Paola Montagna: None declared, Sabrina Paolini: None declared, Vanessa Smith: None declared, Maurizio Cutolo Grant/research support from: I received grant/research support from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Boehringer, Celgene.

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AB0058

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HLA-DRB1*04:01, RHEUMATOID NODULES AND PARTICULAR EPITOPES OF CITRULLINATED FIBRIN IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

G. Larid1, M. Pancarte2, G. Offer3, C. Clavel-4, M. Martin5, V. Prade6, I. Auger8

Background: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is associated with HLA-DRB1 genes encoding the shared epitope (SE), a 5 amino acid motive. RA is usually preceded by the emergence of anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPs) detected by anti-CCP2 tests. Citrullin is a neutral amino acid resulting from post translational modification of arginyl Arginyl Deiminases (PADs). ACPs recognize epitopes from citrullinated human fibrinogen (Fib-cit) and can be specifically detected by the AhFibA assay. Five peptides derived from Fib-cit together represent almost all of the epitopes recognized by patients with ACPA-positive RA: α501–515cit and α501–515cit antibodies were associated with HLA-DRB1*04:01.

Methods: 184 ACPA positive RA patients fulfilling the 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria were studied. Patients characteristics, including HLA-DRB1 genotype, were collected from their medical files. Anti-CCP2, ACPA, Rheumatoid Factors (RF), and antibodies against the five major Fib-cit peptides were analyzed using ELISA assays.

Results: Anti-CCP2 and AhFibA titres were strongly correlated (r=0.7037; p = 5.69x10^-29, Pearson’s). Anti-α501–515cit antibodies were associated with HLA-DRB1*04:01 (OR = 5.52 [2.00 – 13.64]; p = 0.0003). High level anti-α501–515cit antibodies were significantly associated with rheumatoid nodules (OR = 2.71 [1.00 – 7.16]; p = 0.044). Anti-α501–515cit antibodies were associated with RF (OR=2.31 [1.10 – 4.78]; p= 0.026).

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REFERENCES:

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AB0060

INCREASED AGE/AUTOIMMUNE-ASSOCIATED B CELLS IN RA AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

Y. Qin1, Z. Chen1. THE FIRST AFFILIATED HOSPITAL OF USTC, RHEUMATOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY, HEFEI, CHINA

Background: Age/Autoimmune-associated B cells (ABCs) are an emerging B cell subset that accumulate in aged and autoimmune-prone mice. Expansion of human ABCs has been observed in patients with autoimmune diseases like SLE and correlated with disease activity. However, it is less known whether ABCs contribute to the pathogenesis of RA.

Methods: The aim of this work was to explore the role of ABCs in RA.

Results: 63 RA patients who met the 2010 ACR classification criteria for RA, 42 sex and age matched healthy control (HC), 35 Spondyloarthritis (SpA) and 31 Osteoarthritis (OA) patients were enrolled and blood samples were collected. The proportion of circulating ABCs was detected by flow cytometry and association with clinical and laboratory parameters were analyzed. Expression of characteristic proteins and inflammatory cytokines on ABCs were examined by quantitative real-time PCR.

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REFERENCES:

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