AB0069 ANTIbODIES AGAINST PHOSPHORYLCHOLINE AS PROTECTION MARKERS IN AUTOIMMUNE, ATHEROSCLEROSIS, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND CHRONIC INFLAMMATION – IMPLICATIONS FOR TREATMENT

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Background: Autoimmunity, atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease (CVD) are chronic inflammatory conditions and represent a major part of global burden of morbidity and mortality. The immune system plays an important role in these conditions. Further, the risk of CVD and atherosclerosis is raised in several autoimmune conditions, where SLE is an important example. Its major cause, atherosclerosis, ascribed to the accumulated immune system cells producing cytokines and pro-inflammatory molecules, is one of the major risk factors for CVD in chronic inflammatory conditions and represents a major part of the global burden of morbidity and mortality.

Methods: We reported that anti-PC, especially IgM (and Ig1) anti-PC is negatively associated with atherosclerosis, CV disease (including both MI and stroke) in different populations, and also with autoimmune diseases, especially systemic rheumatic diseases as SLE. Potential mechanisms include anti-inflammatory effects, inhibition of uptake of OxLDL in the vascular wall, promotion of T regulatory cells, inhibition of cell death, and increased clearance of dead cells.

Results: Based on our findings, we have proposed a novel hypothesis which is based on the concept of anti-PC could be a novel factor protecting against rheumatic diseases.

AB0070 ROLE OF VASPIN IN ATHEROSCLEROTIC DISEASE AND CARDIOVASCULAR RISK IN AXIAL SpondyloARthritis

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Background: VASPIN (a protein having homology with angiopoietin-related protein) is expressed in atherosclerotic plaques and may be released from activated macrophages, smooth muscle cells and adipose tissue. VASPIN expression is higher in patients with CVD than in healthy controls, and is associated with CVD risk factors and atherosclerotic manifestations. Our aim was to investigate the factors that regulate VASPIN expression in patients with axial Spondyloarthritides (axSpA) and their role in the pathogenesis of cardiovascular disease.

Methods: Cross-sectional analysis of 42 patients with axSpA (20 with AS and 22 with undifferentiated axSpA) and 42 healthy controls. VASPIN expression was measured in the following tissues: subcutaneous adipose tissue, subcutaneous fascia, and carotid plaque.

Results: VASPIN expression was significantly higher in axSpA patients than in healthy controls in all tissues examined. Interestingly, VASPIN expression was also increased in subcutaneous fascia and carotid plaque of patients with a history of cardiovascular disease.

Conclusion: Our findings suggest that VASPIN expression is upregulated in patients with axSpA, particularly those with a history of cardiovascular disease. Further studies are needed to determine the clinical relevance of these findings.