



POSTER PRESENTATION

Open Access

Relationship between the sialylation level of anti-proteinase 3 antibodies and the activity of granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's disease)

Philippe Guilpain^{1,2,3*}, Cécile Espy³, Willy Morelle⁴, Niloufar Kavian³, Christian Pagnoux², Jean-Claude Michalski⁴, Loïc Guillevin², Bernard Weill³, Frédéric Batteux³

From 6th European Workshop on Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Diseases
Nice, France. 23-25 November 2011

Background

Anti-proteinase 3 (PR3) antibodies (Abs) are associated with granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA), formerly called Wegener's granulomatosis, a systemic necrotizing vasculitis. Their levels are not correlated with disease activity and cannot be used to predict clinical outcome. We assessed whether the glycosylation and sialylation levels of anti-proteinase 3 Abs could affect their pathogenicity and thus be correlated with the activity of GPA.

Material and methods

Forty-two sera from 42 patients with active or weakly active/inactive GPA were tested. Anti-PR3 Abs were assayed by ELISA and their levels of glycosylation and sialylation by enzyme-linked lectin assay. The glycosylation and sialylation levels of IgG purified from the sera of healthy donors and patients were determined by permethylation and mass spectrometry analysis of glycans. The neutrophil oxidative burst induced by purified IgG was assayed spectrofluorimetrically.

Results

Patients with active or GPA exhibited lower sialylation ratio of anti-PR3 Abs than patients with weakly active or inactive disease. Sialylation ratio was inversely correlated with the activity indexes, BVAS and BVAS-WG ($p < 0.0001$). The area under the ROC curve for the sialylation ratio of anti-PR3 Abs as a test to determine

disease activity is 0.82 ($p = 0.0006$). The characterization of N-glycans showed a decrease in 2,6-linked sialylated N-glycans and an increase in (dHex₁Hex₃HexNAc₄(m/z 1836)) agalactosylated structures in purified IgG from patients with active GPA. The anti-PR3 Ab-induced oxidative burst of neutrophils was inversely correlated with the sialylation level of anti-PR3 IgG.

Conclusion

The sialylation level of anti-PR3 Abs is associated with the clinical activity of GPA, through the modulation of the oxidative burst of neutrophils induced by these autoantibodies.

Author details

¹Médecine Interne A, Hôpital Saint-Eloi, Université Montpellier 1, Montpellier, France. ²Médecine Interne, Hôpital Cochin, Université Paris 5, Paris, France. ³Laboratoire d'immunologie, EA 1833, Université Paris 5, Cochin, Paris, France. ⁴Unité de Glycobiologie Structurale et Fonctionnelle UMR8576, Université des Sciences et Technologies, Lille, France.

Published: 23 November 2011

doi:10.1186/1479-5876-9-S2-P57

Cite this article as: Guilpain et al.: Relationship between the sialylation level of anti-proteinase 3 antibodies and the activity of granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's disease). *Journal of Translational Medicine* 2011 **9**(Suppl 2):P57.

¹Médecine Interne A, Hôpital Saint-Eloi, Université Montpellier 1, Montpellier, France

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article