KSN 2021
FULLY VIRTUAL MEETING
September 02 (Thu) - 05 (Sun)

Oral Communication Abstract
Presentation No. OC2-05 (Abstract Submission No. 2290)

Oral Communications 2 Sep. 2 (Thu), 13:40-15:40

P-glycoprotein Expressing IL-17A+IFN-γ+ Th17/1 Cells Are Refractory to glucocorticoids in nephrotic syndrome

Akhilesh Jaiswal[1], Narayan Prasad[1], Vikas Agarwal[2]
[1]Department of Nephrology, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, India
[2]Department of Clinical Immunology, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, India

Objectives: Th17 cells are critical effectors mediating the autoimmunity in nephrotic syndrome (NS). Elevated IFN-γ has also been involved in NS; however, it remains unclear to what extent Th1 cells contribute to glucocorticoid resistance in NS. P-glycoprotein (P-gp) effluxes glucocorticoids outside the cells and selectively expressed differentially on T cell subtypes. In this study, we investigated the role of P-gp and cellular source of IFN-γ and assessed its contribution to glucocorticoids resistance in NS.

Methods: We analyzed the frequency of pathogenic IL-17A+IFN-γ+ Th17/1 lymphocytes and P-gp expression on their surface by flow cytometry in SSNS (n = 32; mean age: 9.06 ± 5.84) and SRNS (n = 28; mean age: 11.29 ± 3.73) patients. We also included 15 age- and sex-matched healthy controls. All patients were of biopsy-proven minimal change disease and all patients were treated with steroids. All patients were recruited as per the criteria of ISKDC.

Results: We found a significant IL-17A+IFN-γ+ Th17/1 population ($P < 0.001$) in steroid-resistant NS (SRNS) as compared to steroid-sensitive NS (SSNS) patients. IL-12 and IL-23 are significantly higher in SRNS as compared to SSNS patients which are required for the transition of pathogenic Th17 cells to IFN-γ producers. Of the IL-17A+IFN-γ+ Th17/1 population 95.8% of cells were expressed P-gp on their surface in SRNS; however, only 30.1% of cells expressed P-gp in the SSNS group. We also observed that P-gp expression correlate positively with IL-17A+IFN-γ+ Th17/1 population ($r= 0.739$, $p< 0.001$) significantly.

Conclusions: The above findings clearly show that higher expression of P-gp on IL-17A+IFN-γ+ Th17/1 cells associated with steroid resistance in nephrotic syndrome through both IL-17A and IFN-γ.