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Effects of Serum sIL-2R, Eotaxin Level and Pulmonary Function in Allergic Asthma after Antigen Provocation

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We performed antigen inhalation provocation tests in 31 allergic asthma patients and 12 normal subjects, and detected pre-provocation and post-provocation pulmonary function, meanwhile determined serum soluble interleukin-2 receptor (sIL-2R), eosinophil (Eos), total serum IgE (TIt) and specific IgE (sIgE). The results: The post-provocation serum sIL-2R, Eos, TIt and sIgE of asthma patients were higher than those of normal subjects and before provocation (P<0.01), while FEV1, P1C, sIgA significantly decreased and Raw remarkably increased after provocation compared with those of normal subjects and before provocation (P<0.01). Correlation analysis showed that sIL-2R, Eos were significantly negatively correlated to FEV1, sIgA and remarkably positively correlated to Raw. The above results indicated that sIL-2R was one of the marker of T cell activation and Eos involvement in the role in the changing of pulmonary function. sIL-2R level and Eos number was closely related to the degree of bronchial hyperresponsiveness in asthma patients, and they might be regarded as objective evidences in clinical diagnosis and treatment.

Aspecific Airway Hyperresponsiveness in Mono-Sensitive Sicilian Patients with Allergic Rhinitis Correlates with Serum IgE Levels and Blood Eosinophils Unchanged during the Pollen Season

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Allergic rhinitis has been said to be a risk factor for the development of asthma as suggested by its frequent association with airway hyperreactivity. However, little is known about the effect of natural specific allergen exposure on the bronchial reactivity of mono-sensitive patients with rhinitis in the Southern Mediterranean area, in relation to skin reactivity to allergens, serum IgE levels and blood eosinophils. The significance of the association between allergic rhinitis, asthma and abnormal airway responsiveness with respect to the pathogenesis of asthma is unclear. For this reason, we have studied aspecific bronchial hyperreactivity, in patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis, with reference to the responsible allergen. The aim of the study was to correlate the bronchial responsiveness to methacholine in subjects with allergic rhinitis during and out the pollen season with serum IgE and blood eosinophils. Forty-two patients suffering from allergic rhinitis and bronchial asthma, with reference to the responsible allergen, during the pollen season 16 out 15 patients were Paritaria-sensitive and out pollen season 7 patients. Finally, in Paritaria-sensitive the bronchial responsiveness was unchanged during and out pollen season, significantly correlated with serum IgE and with blood eosinophil counts. Our results are consistent with the hypothesis that Paritaria is much important than Oleea and Gramineae as a risk for developing non-specific bronchial hyperreactivity.

Clinical and experimental aspects

Nitrates Oxide: A Role in Maintenance of Systemic and Pulmonary Vascular Tone in Man

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The aim of his study was to examine whether the vasodilative nitric oxide (NO) has a role in maintaining basal vascular tone in normal man. 10 normal male volunteers aged 26 to 5 years were studied on two separate occasions in a double blind, placebo controlled crossover study. They were trained to receive either a continuous infusion (4 mg/kg/min) of N^6 monomethyl-L-arginine (L-NMMA) with a front-loaded bolus (4 mg/kg) or volume matched placebo. Pulsed wave Doppler echo-