subjects showed positive metacholine challenge, PD20 ranging from 20 to 600 mcg. The study was performed outside the pollen season, when all symptoms disappeared. All patients with allergic asthma showed a clinical and cytological reaction upon allergen challenge. While multiple clinical and allergological means were effective to control asthma, our study is focused on the investigation of the role of bronchial hyperresponsiveness in asthma.

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

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Aspergillus Airway Hyperresponsiveness in Mono-Sensitive Sicilian Patients with Allergic Rhinitis Correlates with Serum sIL-2R and Blood Eosinophils during and out Pollen Season

G. Di Lorenzo, P. Mansueto, M. Melluso, G. Morici, F. Norrito, M. Esposito

We performed antigen inhalation provocation tests in 31 allergic asthma patients and 12 normal subjects, and detected post-provocation and post-challenge serum and serum-specific IgE. The results: The post-provocation serum sIL-2R, Eos, TgE and sIgE of asthma patients were significantly higher than those of normal subjects and before provocation (P < 0.01), while PEV1, PVEC, TgE and the ratio of serum sIL-2R to allergen were increased after provocation compared with those of normal subjects and before provocation (P < 0.01).

Conclusion: The results suggest that serum sIL-2R, Eos, TgE and sIgE could be useful in the early diagnosis of allergic asthma patients.

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Contributions of House Dust Mite and Feather Mite to Asthma in Children

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Histamine Release from Human Bronchoalveolar-Cells

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

D.O. Kielty, A.R.C. Lee, A.D. Struthers, B.J. Lipworth. Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Nineweils Hospital and Medical School, University of Dundee, Scotland

The aim of this study was to examine whether the vasodilator nitric oxide (NO) has its employment also in patients with single history of allergic asthma. Its employment also in patients with single history of allergic asthma. Its employment also in patients with single history of allergic asthma. Its employment also in patients with single history of allergic asthma. Its employment also in patients with single history of allergic asthma.

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 allergens exposure on the bronchial reactivity of mono-specific 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 regard 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 plasminogen alpha-antiplasmin. 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-one patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis were included in the study. Twenty patients suffered from seasonal rhinitis to Parietaria pollen, 15 patients to Granivium pollen and 14 patients to Olea pollen. In all patients long function measurements (assessed as response to methacholine), serum sIL-2R and eosinophils were measured during and out pollen season. During pollen season 16 out 49 rhinitis patients demonstrated values of PC20 < FEV1 above the asthmatic range whereas out pollen season only 8 patients were in the asthmatic range. By analysing the results with reference to the allergic resistant, during the pollen season 15 out 16 patients were Parietaria-sensitive and out pollen season 7 patients. Finally, in Parietaria-sensitive rhinitis bronchial responsiveness, both during and out pollen season, significantly correlated with serum sIL-2R and with blood eosinophils counts.

Our results are consistent with the hypothesis that Parietaria is much important than Oela and Gramineae as a risk factor for developing nonspecific bronchial hyperresponsiveness. On the whole, present observations provide further evidence that there is an interrelationship of allergen kind, IgE, eosinophils and bronchial hyperresponsiveness suggesting that they may play a role in the development of bronchial asthma in rhinitis patients.

Clinical and experimental aspects

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

D.O. Kielty, A.R.C. Lee, A.D. Struthers, B.J. Lipworth. Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Nineweils Hospital and Medical School, University of Dundee, Scotland

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