

Systemic sclerosis, myositis and related syndromes - aetiology, pathogenesis and animal models

POS0603

AUTOANTIBODIES AGAINST A SUBUNIT OF MITOCHONDRIAL RESPIRATORY CHAIN COMPLEX I IN INCLUSION BODY MYOSITIS

Keywords: Autoantibodies, Myositis

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Background: Autoantibodies are found in up to 80% of patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM) and are associated with distinct clinical phenotypes [1]. Autoantibodies targeting cytosolic 5'-nucleotidase 1A (anti-cN1A) are currently the only known serum biomarker for the subgroup inclusion body myositis (IBM) (2), although detected even in other autoimmune diseases.

Objectives: To identify new autoimmune targets in IIM by antigen bead array assay. **Methods:** In a first cross-sectional exploratory study, 357 antigens representing 268 proteins were incubated with plasma samples from 219 IIM (108 Polymyositis (PM), 80 Dermatomyositis (DM) and 31 IBM) patients, 349 Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) patients and 306 population controls for screening of IgG reactivity by antigen bead array. All samples were identified in the local biobank of the Rheumatology clinic, Karolinska University Hospital. Interesting results obtained for the IBM subgroup were then validated in an independent larger cohort of 287 patients with IBM followed at nine European rheumatological or neurological centers. IBM serum samples were explored by antigen bead array and results validated by western blot. As controls, serum samples from 30 patients with PM and 30 with DM, HLA-matched with the IBM Swedish cohort, were included. Demographics, laboratory, clinical, and muscle biopsy data of the IBM cohort was retrieved.

Results: In the exploratory study IgG reactivity towards NADH dehydrogenase 1 α subcomplex 11 (NDUFA11), a subunit of the membrane-bound mitochondrial respiratory chain complex I, was discovered with higher frequency in the IBM (9.7%) than PM (2.8%) and DM samples (2.5%), although the difference was not statistically significant. Anti-NDUFA11 IgG was also found in 2.3% of SLE and 2.6% of population control samples. In the validation study anti-NDUFA11 autoantibodies were detected in 11/287 IBM patients (3.8%), 0/30 PM and 0/30 DM patients. Reactivity against NDUFA11 could be confirmed by western blot (Table 1, Figure 1). The eleven anti-NDUFA11 positive patients showed a trend of lower frequency of wheelchair/walker ever use and higher creatine kinase levels at time of IBM diagnosis compared to the anti-NDUFA11 negative group. Ragged red fibers were significantly more prevalent in anti-NDUFA11 positive than negative patients ($p=0.04$). Anti-cN1A autoantibodies were detected in 98/287 (34.1%) of IBM, 3/30 (10%) DM and 9/29 (31%) PM patients, $p=0.03$. Coexistence of anti NDUFA11 and anti-cN1A antibodies was observed in 3 IBM patients.

Conclusion: Our results reveal a new autoimmune target in the mitochondrial respiratory chain complex I that might be specifically associated with IBM. This is of particular interest as mitochondrial abnormalities are known histological findings in muscle biopsies of IBM patients.

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Table 1. NDUFA11 protein fragments (PrESTs)

NDUFA11	Amino acid sequence (excluding His6ABP)	PrEST molecular weight (Da) (including His6ABP)
PrEST 1	ASLVKMGRLGEGWEVFAKPKV	19833,4
PrEST 2	MAPKVFRQYWDIPDGTDCRKAYST	20574,06
PrEST 3	TLNPPGTFLEGVAKVGQYTF	19828,23

Legend: Amino acid sequence and molecular weight of the protein fragments loaded on the western blot gel. NDUFA11, NADH dehydrogenase 1 α subcomplex 11; His6ABP, six histidine and albumin binding protein.

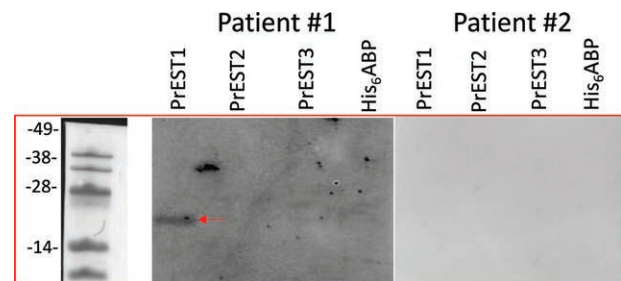


Figure 1. Validation of bead array assay results with western blot

Legend: Western blot showing the reactivity of two IBM patients against the NDUFA11 protein fragments (PrEST1,2,3) expressed with a His6ABP tag. Patient#1 was reactive to PrEST1 and not to PrEST2 and 3 in the bead array assay while patient#2 did not display any reactivity. NDUFA11, NADH dehydrogenase 1 α subcomplex 11; His6ABP, six histidine and albumin binding protein.

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POS0604

ACTIVATION OF TYPE I INTERFERON PATHWAY IN SERA OF PATIENTS WITH ANTI-MELANOMA DIFFERENTIATION-ASSOCIATED GENE 5 ANTIBODY-POSITIVE DERMATOMYOSITIS

Keywords: Myositis, Cytokines and chemokines

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Background: We have previously reported that anti-melanoma differentiation-associated gene 5 (MDA5) antibodies are more frequently associated with rapidly progressive ILD (RP-ILD) and amyopathic dermatomyositis (DM) than anti-aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase (ARS) antibodies and that serum ferritin levels are higher in anti-MDA5-positive patients and serve as a relevant biomarker for RP-ILD [1]. Thus, it is speculated that anti-MDA5 DM and anti-ARS idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs) have distinct pathomechanisms. It was reported that type I interferon (IFN) gene signature was upregulated in the peripheral blood mononuclear cells and the skin tissues from the anti-MDA5 DM patients [2]. However, the role of type I IFN in anti-MDA5 DM has yet to be fully elucidated. **Objectives:** We aimed to determine the activity of IFN- α/β and IFN regulatory factor (IRF) in sera of patients with anti-MDA5 antibody-positive DM with ILD,