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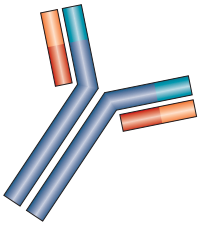
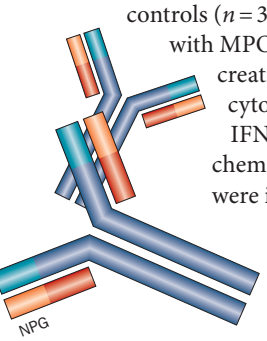


VASCULITIS

Potential role of an anti-moesin autoantibody in MPO-AAV

Levels of myeloperoxidase (MPO)-specific anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic autoantibody (ANCA) do not always correlate with disease activity in MPO-ANCA-associated vasculitis (MPO-AAV). Now, data from a new study suggest that a novel anti-moesin autoantibody might also have a role in the pathogenesis of this disease.

In this study, Suzuki and colleagues found significantly higher levels of the anti-moesin autoantibody in serum samples from patients with MPO-AAV ($n = 60$) than in those from healthy controls ($n = 31$). Among patients with MPO-AAV, levels of serum creatinine, inflammatory cytokines (including IFN-γ and GM-CSF) and chemokines (including MCP-1) were increased in the anti-moesin autoantibody positive group ($n = 32$). Moreover, levels of IL-7 and IL-12p70 correlated with anti-moesin autoantibody titre in these patients. Based on these and additional data, the researchers speculate that the anti-moesin autoantibody might be involved in the inflammatory response that leads to progression of vasculitis. Consistent with this hypothesis, anti-moesin IgG bound to human neutrophils and monocytes and stimulated the production of IFN-γ, MCP-1, IL-8, IL-17 and GM-CSF *in vitro*.



"The present study suggested, for the first time, that the anti-moesin autoantibody reacted with neutrophils and monocytes and is associated with the development of small vessel vasculitis," conclude the researchers.

Ellen F. Carney

Original article Suzuki, K. *et al*. A novel autoantibody against moesin in the serum of patients with MPO-ANCA-associated vasculitis. *Nephrol. Dial. Transplant*. doi:10.1093/ndt/gft469