

IN BRIEF

AUTOINFLAMMATION

Stem cell transplantation for DADA2

Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) was an effective and definitive treatment in 14 patients with deficiency of adenosine deaminase 2 (DADA2), a monogenic autoinflammatory vasculopathy. All patients reported resolution of immunological and haematological phenotype, with no new vascular events at an average of 18 months follow-up, and adenosine deaminase 2 activity normalized as early as 14 days post-HSCT in those patients tested ($n = 7$). Adverse events were reported in 11 of the 14 patients (four incidents of cytopenia and seven incidents of moderate or acute graft-versus-host disease).

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Hashem H. *et al.* Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation rescues the hematological, immunological and vascular phenotype in DADA2. *Blood* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1182/blood-2017-07-798660> (2017)

CRYSTAL ARTHRITIS

Febuxostat reduces synovitis in early gout

Compared with placebo, urate-lowering therapy with once-daily febuxostat at 40mg (or 80mg if serum uric acid was ≥ 6 mg/dL after 14 days) in patients with early gout (hyperuricaemia and ≤ 2 gout flares; $n = 183$) reduced MRI-detected synovitis (change from baseline RAMRIS score of -0.43 versus -0.07 ; $P < 0.001$), decreased the incidence of disease flares (29.3% versus 41.4%; $P < 0.05$) and increased the proportion of patients obtaining a serum uric acid level of < 6 mg/dL (62.8% versus 5.7%; $P < 0.001$) after 24 months. However, treatment with febuxostat did not cause detectable changes in joint erosion over 2 years.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Dalbeth, N. *et al.* Effects of febuxostat in early gout: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/art.40233> (2017)

PAEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY

DNA methylation in oligoarticular JIA

Results from the analysis of DNA methylation patterns using Illumina HumanMethylation450 arrays showed no substantial differences between CD4⁺ T cells from 56 patients with oligoarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and CD4⁺ T cells from 57 age-matched healthy individuals. The authors of the study suggest that this lack of a difference could indicate a less crucial role for epigenetic changes in JIA than in rheumatoid arthritis in adults.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Chavez-Valencia, R. A. *et al.* The DNA methylation landscape of CD4⁺ T cells in oligoarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis. *J. Autoimmun.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jaut.2017.09.010> (2017)

VASCULITIS SYNDROMES

Rituximab for adult-onset IgA vasculitis

In a multicentre observational study of 22 patients with adult-onset IgA vasculitis, 90.9% ($n = 20$) achieved remission (as defined by Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score; BVAS) at an average follow-up of 24 months when receiving rituximab either as monotherapy or as an additional therapy. Following the initiation of rituximab, patients experienced reductions in BVAS ($P < 0.0001$) and levels of proteinuria ($P < 0.0001$) and C-reactive protein ($P = 0.0005$), and were able to reduce their dose of prednisone. Of those patients who achieved remission, 35% ($n = 7$) subsequently experienced a relapse.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Maritati, F. *et al.* Rituximab for the treatment of adult-onset IgA vasculitis (Henoch-Schönlein purpura). *Arthritis Rheumatol.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/art.40339> (2017)