Prolactin and systemic lupus erythematosus

Beuy Joob¹ • Viroj Wiwanitkit²

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Dear editor, the recent report on “prolactin and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)” is very interesting [1]. Based on this report, it might conclude that there is a clinical interrelationship between prolactin hormone system and SLE. However, the exact pathophysiology is still unknown. Indeed, there are many trigger factors for SLE such as virus infections. It can be hypothesized that if there is a direct relationship between prolactin and SLE, there should be some common pathological process after getting virus infection. Of interest, there are some reports supporting that hypothesis. Here, we would like to draw interest on Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) which is mentioned as an important trigger for SLE [2]. In a recent report, p100 coactivator, a coactivator of the EBV-encoded transcription factor, EBNA-2, is closely associated with the lactating state in mammary tissue in animals [3]. It was reported that increased p100 activator was relating to increased prolactin [3]. Hence, the interrelation between virus infection, prolactin, and immunopathogenesis should be possible as proposed by Jara et al. [1].

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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✉ Beuy Joob
beuyjoob@hotmail.com

¹ Sanitation 1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok, Thailand

² Joseph Ayobabalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Nigeria