

Anti-Ro antibody and clinical manifestations: lessons from systemic lupus erythematosus in the elderly

Rui-Xue Leng · Wei-Zi Qin · Hai-Feng Pan · Dong-Qing Ye

Received: 31 May 2010 / Accepted: 2 June 2010 / Published online: 12 June 2010
© Clinical Rheumatology 2010

Dear Editor,

As we know, previous studies have shown the association of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and anti-Ro antibody with a series of clinical manifestations. However, available evidence suggests that there still exist a large number of inconsistencies. Recently, Paz et al. reported that there was no direct relationship between anti-Ro antibody and cutaneous photosensitivity in SLE patients [1]. Another study also found that anti-Ro antibody was not associated to photosensitivity. However, there was an association with anti-La antibody. Moreover, in multivariate analysis, patients with anti-Ro antibody has 1.63 (95% CI, 1.07–2.50) more risk to develop cutaneous vasculitis than patients without this antibody [2]. Interestingly, Shinjo et al. showed that SLE cutaneous vasculitis group was not associated to anti-Ro antibody, but the group had a higher frequency of photosensitivity. Additionally, the authors also found that had a higher frequency of Raynaud phenomenon in cutaneous vasculitis group [3].

Clinical manifestation in late onset SLE may provide a good reference for this disagreement. Rovenský et al. systematically reviewed clinical manifestation for SLE in the elderly and found that late onset SLE patients

manifested higher rate of positive findings of anti-Ro and anti-La antibodies. In contrast, skin vasculitis, photosensitivity and Raynaud phenomenon occurred rarely in the elderly patients [4]. The review may prove that anti-Ro antibody is associated to prevalence of anti-La antibody but not photosensitivity, cutaneous vasculitis and Raynaud phenomenon, which is in agreement with most findings from the reports discussed above [1–3]. It should be noted that further studies are required to clarify precise molecular mechanism. In spite of this, clinical manifestation in late onset will provide a better understanding for the role of anti-Ro antibody in SLE.

Disclosures None

References

1. Paz ML, González Maglio DH, Pino M, Ferrari A, Weill FS, Nasswetter G, Leoni J (2010) Anti-ribonucleoproteins autoantibodies in patients with systemic autoimmune diseases. Relation with cutaneous photosensitivity. *Clin Rheumatol*. doi:10.1007/s10067-010-1481-8
2. Fukuda MV, Lo SC, de Almeida CS, Shinjo SK (2009) Anti-Ro antibody and cutaneous vasculitis in systemic lupus erythematosus. *Clin Rheumatol* 28:301–304
3. Shinjo SK, Bonfá E (2010) Cutaneous vasculitis in systemic lupus erythematosus: association with anti-ribosomal P protein antibody and Raynaud phenomenon. *Clin Rheumatol*. doi:10.1007/s10067-010-1432-4
4. Rovenský J, Tsuchynová A (2008) Systemic lupus erythematosus in the elderly. *Autoimmun Rev* 7:235–239

Rui-Xue Leng and Wei-Zi Qin contributed equally to this work and should be considered co-first authors.

R.-X. Leng · W.-Z. Qin · H.-F. Pan · D.-Q. Ye (✉)
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics,
School of Public Health, Anhui Medical University,
81 Meishan Road, Hefei 230032 Anhui,
People's Republic of China
e-mail: ydq@ahmu.edu.cn