



Secrets revealed by myositis autoantibodies

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THE MYOSITIS ASSOCIATION

The origins of 'rheumatic' disease



Rheuma – Greek for flow; Rheumatism – to suffer from a 'flux'

The 'flux' of 'rheumatic' disease

Scleroderma







Dermatomyositis



Psoriatic arthritis

Systemic lupus erythematosus

Antibodies are part of the 'flux' of the immune system

B lymphocytes make antibodies







The immune system (innate and adaptive)





Antibodies and Autoantibodies



Immunoglobulin



Autoantibody (anti-DNA)

Autoantibodies are antibodies that recognise selfconstituents (autoantigens) rather than foreign particles

Autoantibodies are the hallmark of autoimmunity

Autoimmunity



- Paul Ehrlich 'horror autotoxicus'
- 1943-1946
 - Eric Waaler and Harry Rose described Rheumatoid factor
- 1948
 - Hargreaves. LE cell
- !966
 - Tan & Kunkel described anti-Sm
- 1976
 - Reichlin described anti-Mi2
- 1980
 - Moroi et al described anti-centromere antibodies in scleroderma





Autoimmunity





Timeline of myositis specific autoantibody discovery



Since 2005 the majority of juvenile and adult myositis cases have an identifiable myositis autoantibody



So our journey begins...





- Wellington Rheumatology trainee 1982-1984
- RACP Grant Melbourne 1985
- Dorothy Eden Fellowship RNHRD, Bath 1985-1986
- Senior Registrar RNHRD 1987-1990





The Australian experience

A HIGHLY CONSERVED 72,000 DALTON CENTROMERIC ANTIGEN REACTIVE WITH AUTOANTIBODIES FROM PATIENTS WITH PROGRESSIVE SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

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Institute of Medical Research





Journal Immunology 137, 2541-2547 1985

The golden age of treatment at 'The Min'















Perkins tractors



- Cure for gout, rheumatism, headaches and epilepsy
- Distributed in England by a Bath Physician with a thriving practice (also a superintendent of mental asylum)
- 1799 Dr Haygarth at the Min performed placebo study with fake wooden tractors on five patients
- 'the wooden tractors were drawn over the skin such as to touch it in the lightest manner... distinctly proving to what a surprising degree mere fancy deceives the patient'

The spectrum of autoimmune connective tissue disease



Autoantibodies in CTD



Scleroderma (systemic sclerosis)













- Abnormal accumulation of collagen and other matrix proteins in affected tissue
- Mainly affects
 - Skin
 - Blood vessels
 - Lungs, Kidneys, Gut
- Presence of disease specific autoantibodies

Autoantibodies in CTD



Autoantibodies in scleroderma



Serological subsets in scleroderma



SEGREGATION OF AUTOANTIBODIES WITH DISEASE IN MONOZYGOTIC TWIN PAIRS DISCORDANT FOR SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

Three Further Cases

NEIL J. MCHUGH, GEORGINA R. HARVEY, JEAN WHYTE, and J. KEVIN DORSEY





Arthritis Rheum. 1995

ANTI-TOPOISOMERASE I ANTIBODIES IN SILICA-ASSOCIATED SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

A Model for Autoimmunity

NEIL JOHN MCHUGH, JEAN WHYTE, GEORGINA HARVEY, and UWE F. HAUSTEIN





Arthritis Rheum. 1994

....the journey continues





The American dream







Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA Vol. 76, No. 11 pp. 5495–5499, November 1979 Biochemistry

Antibodies to small nuclear RNAs complexed with proteins are produced by patients with systemic lupus erythematosus

(nuclear ribonucleoprotein/rheumatic disease/RNA processing)

MICHAEL RUSH LERNER AND JOAN ARGETSINGER STEITZ

Two Novel Classes of Small Ribonucleoproteins Detected by Antibodies Associated with Lupus Erythematosus

Abstract. The RNP and Sm antigens recognized by lupus erythematosus antibodies are located on discrete particles containing single small nuclear RNA's complexed with proteins. The antigens Ro and La are also on ribonucleoproteins. The small RNA's in ribonucleoproteins with Ro are discrete, like those associated with RNP and Sm; in contrast, ribonucleoproteins with La contain a striking highly banded spectrum of small RNA's from uninfected cells as well as virus-associated RNA from adenovirus-infected cells.

Lerner, Boyle, Hardin, Steitz. Science 1981



Isolated by

immunoprecipitation

RNA species isolated by immunoprecipitation

The spectrum of autoimmune connective tissue disease



Methods for detecting autoantibodies

Autoantibody Screening by Indirect Immunofluorescence



Human neutrophil



ELISA

anti-PR3







Autoantibody identification by second technique

Immunodiffusion



ENA anti-RNP



Western blot

anti-centromere

Lineblot

Immunoprecipitation





Indirect Immunofluorescence

- Antigen Source tissue section (mouse LKS, monkey oesophagus) whole cell (HEp-2, neutrophil, crithidia luciliae)
- Autoantibody from patient serum Apply autoantibody that if present will bind to the antigen source
- Secondary antibody anti-human IgG FITC

• Visualization - green fluorescence in a recognizable pattern corresponding to location of antigen read under a specialized immunofluorescence microscope

Indirect immunofluorescence test I



Indirect immunofluorescence test II



Indirect Immunofluorescence test III



Indirect immunofluorescence



- If test positive the patient will be reported as having an antinuclear antibody (ANA)
- Sometimes the pattern will reveal the type of ANA (specificity) but usually another method will be necessary for exact identity

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Systemic lupus erythematosus



Autoantibodies in CTD



Autoantibodies in SLE



Autoantibodies in SLE

Autoantibody

- Anti-ds-DNA
- Anti-phospholipid
- Anti-Sm (U1RNP)
- Anti-Ro/La
- Anti-C1q
- Anti-ribosomal P

Autoantigen

- Nucleosomes
- Complex phospholipids
- snURPs
- RNA-binding proteins
- Early complement proteins
- Ribosomal proteins

Autoantigens Targeted in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Are Clustered in Two Populations of Surface Structures on Apoptotic Keratinocytes

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Autoantigens in surface blebs of UV irradiated keratinocytes

The spectrum of autoimmune connective tissue disease



Dermatomyositis









ition

Skin disorder

Interstitial lung disease













Timeline of myositis specific autoantibody discovery



Autoantibodies in Myositis

- MSA (myositis specific autoantibodies)
 - Anti-tRNA synthetases (e.g. anti-Jo-1)
 - Anti-Mi-2
 - Anti-signal recognition particle
 - Anti-SAE
 - Anti-TIF1- γ
 - Anti-NXP2
 - Anti-MDA5
 - Anti-HMGCR
 - Anti-cN-1A

- MAA (myositis associated autoantibodies)
 - Anti-PM-Scl
 - Anti-U1RNP
 - Anti-Ku
 - Anti-U3RNP
 - Anti-Ro (SSA)

MSAs and target autoantigens |

Autoantibodies	Target autoantigen	Autoantigen function	Clinical phenotype
Anti-ARS Anti-Jo-1 Anti-PL-7 Anti-PL-12 Anti-EJ Anti-OJ Anti-KS Anti-Zo Anti-YRS	tRNA synthetase Histidyl Threonyl Alanyl Glycyl Isoleucyl Asparaginyl Phenylalanyl Tyrosyl	Intracytoplasmic protein synthesis Binding between an amino acid and its cognate tRNA	ASS Myositis Interstitial pneumonia Mechanics hands Arthritis Fever Raynauds
Anti-Mi-2	Helicase protein part of the NuRD complex	Nuclear transcription	Adult and juvenile DM Hallmark cutaneous disease
Anti-SRP	SRP 6 polypeptides and ribonucleoprotein 7SLRNA	Intracytoplasmic protein translocation (endoplasmic reticulum)	Severe necrotizing myopathy
Anti-HMGCR	3-Hydroxy-3-Methylglutaryl- Coenzyme A Reductase	Biosynthesis of cholesterol	Necrotising myopathy associated with statin use

MSAs and target autoantigens II

Autoantibodies	Target autoantigen	Autoantigen function	Clinical phenotype
Anti-p155/140	TIF1-γ	Nuclear transcription Cellular differentiation	Severe cutaneous disease in juvenile DM and cancer in adults
Anti-p140 (MJ)	NXP-2	Nuclear transcription (tumour suppressor gene p53)	Juvenile DM
Anti-SAE	SAE	Post-translational modification – targets include nuclear transcription factors	Adult DM May present with CADM first
Anti-CADM-140	MDA5	Viral RNA recognition	CADM Interstitial pneumonia
Anti-Mup44	Cytosolic 5'nucleotidase 1A (cN-1A)	Hydrolysis of AMP	Inclusion body myositis (Sjogren's)

Myositis antibodies identify patterns of disease



Betteridge and McHugh JIM 2015

Case A female born 1957

- 2006
- Breathlessness ullet
- 6 months later
 - Proximal muscle weakness
 - Raynaud's
 - Arthralgia
 - Puffy fingers with some fissuring
- Invs
 - ANA weak positive ٠
 - CK 9533 IU/L
 - HRCT non-specific interstitial pneumonia •





Strong Cytoplasmic Speckle on Indirect Immunofluoresence

Normal Serum Case 1 (anti-Zo) 2

Anti-Jo-1

3. Anti-PL-7

4. Anti-PL-12

2.

5.

Protein Immunoprecipitation of bands at approximately 60 kDa and 70 kDa phenylalanyl tRNA synthetase

Anti-synthetase syndrome

Clinical Features

- Myositis
- Interstitial pneumonia (50-80%)
- Arthritis (50-90%)
- Raynaud's (60%)
- Mechanics Hands (70%)
- Fever (80%)

Autoantibody	tRNA synthetase target	Prevalence	
Jo-1	Histidine	25-30%	
EJ	Glycerine	<2%	
PL-7	Threnyine	3-4%	
KS	Asparigine	<2%	
OJ	Isoleucine	<2%	
PL-12	Alanine	3-4%	
Zo	Phenylalanine	<2%	







Zo

EJ

PL

Myositis







Lung disease

KS

Arthritis

Jo-

Anti-

synthetase

autoantibodie

OJ

Key points regarding anti-synthetase syndrome

- Interstitial lung disease may be the predominant or even sole manifestation of myositis (anti-synthetase syndrome)
- Autoantibodies can be missed as they do not give a strong ANA on routine screening
- The additional presence of anti-Ro52 is associated with more severe ILD
- Uncommon in juvenile dermatomyositis (may relate to an association with smoking in adults)

Case B Chinese Female born 1960

- Admitted with fatigue, weight loss and ulcerative rash
- Rapidly progressive breathlessness
- No muscle weakness
- Invs
 - High Ferritin
 - Normal CK
 - Low O2 sats
 - PET normal
 - Anti-MDA5
- Diagnosis
 - CADM with RPILD





Anti-MDA5 Autoantibodies

- More common in Asian myositis population (48%) than Caucasian (13%)
- In adults
 - Rapidly progressing ILD
 - Skin manifestations
 - Especially ulcerations (skin and mouth) and palmar papules
 - Other DM type rashes
- In children (7-38%)
 - Skin and oral ulcers
 - Milder muscle disease
 - ?ILD





Fiorentino *et al* J Am Acad Dermatol 2011;65:25-34 Sato *et al* Arthritis Rheum 2005;52:1571-6 Nakashima *et al* Rheumatol 2010;49:433-40 Kobayashi *et al* J Pediatr 2011;158:675-7 Tansley et al Arthritis Res Ther 2014;16:R138 Moghadam et al Arthritis Care Res 2015



Autoantibodies in Juvenile MSD

• MSDAs

- Anti-TIF1g
- Anti-NXP2
- Anti-MDA5
- Anti-Mi-2
- Low frequency of anti-synthetase and anti-SRP
- MAAs
 - Overlap syndromes with scleroderma/lupus
 - Anti-PmScl
 - Anti-U1RNP



UK JDM Cohort and Biomarker study n = 347

MDSAs in Juvenile MSD

• TIF1- γ

- 17-33% of cases
 - More severe skin disease, ulceration, generalised lipodystrophy
- NXP2
 - 18-36% of cases
 - Calcinosis, contractures, muscle atrophy









- 7-38% of cases
 - Skin and Oral Ulcers, Arthritis, Milder Muscle Disease, ILD
- Mi-2
 - 2-5% of cases
 - Milder disease course

Bingham Medicine Baltimore 2008;87(2):70-86 Gunawardena Rheumatology 2008;47(3):324-8 Espada J Rheumatol 2009;36:2547-51 Rider Medicine Baltimore 2013 92(4) 223-43 Kobayashi *et al* J Pediatr 2011;158:675-7 Tansley Rheumatology 2014;53(12):2204-8 Tansley Arthritis Res Ther 2014;16:R138



Patterns of Juvenile versus Adult MSD

- Juvenile myositis
 - JDM more common
 - Calcinosis
 - Lipodystrophy
 - Interstitial lung disease rare
 - Malignancy rare
 - Polymyositis uncommon
 - Inclusion body myositis rare
 - Overlap e.g. with scleroderma



UK JDM Cohort and Biomarker Study n= 347

- Adult myositis
 - Dermatomyositis
 - Association with malignancy
 - Polymyositis
 - Antisynthetase syndrome
 - Inclusion body myositis
 - Overlap



EUMYONET n = 1616

Myositis and cancer

- Association between cancer and myositis known for many years
- Risk of cancer 3 to 7 times higher in dermatomyositis
- Most common types of cancer
 - Ovary, lung, pancreas, stomach, colorectal, breast, lymphoma, nasopharynx (southeast Asians)
- The risk of malignancy development is highest within one year of myositis diagnosis
- Cancer-associated myositis (CAM) defined as concurrence of myositis and malignancy within 3 years
- Several studies have now shown that anti-transcriptional intermediary factor 1 is a myositis autoantibody and a risk factor for an associated cancer

Case C male born 1953

- Acute admission March 2014
 - PUO
 - 4/12 fatigue, muscle aching and weakness, weight loss
 - Worsening anaemia Hb 85
 - CRP 90, PV 2.71, normal myeloma screen, CK, CEA, CA19.9
 - Normal CT scans, colonoscopy and temporal artery biopsy
 - MR thighs muscle atrophy
 - PET scan revealed recurrence of renal cell carcinoma
 - Anti-TIF1g positive





Transcriptional intermediary factor I Clinical Associations of anti-TIF1 in EuMyoNet (first 1616 cases – unpublished)

Clinical Feature	TIF1 Negative	TIF1 Positive	p value
Interstitial lung disease	31.2%	16.0%	=0.0038
Cancer (ever)	8.0%	32.2%	<0.0001
Cancer-associated myositis	2.3%	20.5%	<0.0001

Learning points from Case C

- A thorough screen for cancer is needed in dermatomyositis, especially with the presence of anti -TIF1 γ (also anti-NXP2)
- The risk of cancer is also higher with age and in the presence of clinically amyopathic DM (CADM)

Cancerous cells may initiate an autoimmune reaction against muscle cells



TIF1g is found in high levels within the nuclei of regenerating muscle fibres Mohassel et al Arthritis Rheum 2015 Breast adenocarcinoma (IHQ 290) anti-TIF1g positive CAM



Breast adenocarcinoma (IHQ 130) Paired tumor from non-myositis patient



TIF1g a tumour suppressing protein is over-expressed in tumour cells from a CAM patient *Pinal-Fernandex et al Rheumatology 2018*

Mutated or abnormally expressed protein becomes a target for an autoimmune reaction. In certain circumstances (e.g. regenerating muscle cells over-express myositis autoantigens) the anti-tumour response is directed towards skeletal muscle cells

Case E male born 1964

• 2006

- Fatigue, weight loss, dysphagia, severe weakness, sclerodactyly
- CK 14,000, EMG positive, Muscle biopsy necrotising myositis, serology anti-SRP
- Slow response to Prednisolone and IVIG
- MMDS 5
- Anti-SRP positive
- 2007
 - Partial response to IV cyclophosphamide
 - Myocarditis, CK 1700, MMDS 17
 - Good response to rituximab and MMF
- 2008
 - Returned to work as self-employed builder, MMDS 30, CK 207
- 2009
 - Died of acute coronary event



Anti-SRP and Anti-HMGCR autoantibodies

Anti-SRP

Necrotizing Myopathy

- Fatigue / Arthralgia
- Severe Weakness (Rapid Onset)
- High CK at Presentation
- Carditis
- Maybe refractory to standard treatments
- Titres may correlate with disease activity

Targoff *et al* Arthritis Rheum 1990;33:1361-70 Wang *et al* NMD 2014;24:335-41 Benveniste *et al* Arthritis Rheum 2011;63:1961-71 Rider *et al* 2013, Medicine Baltimore 92(4) 223-43

Anti-HMGCR

Necrotizing Myopathy

- Statin-Induced
- Not seen in patients on statins without myositis
- Raised CK
- Mild to severe weakness
- Anti-HMGCR levels correlate with indicators of disease activity
- Responsive to immunomodulatory treatment

Christopher-Stine L *et al*. Arthritis Rheum. 2010:2757-66. Mammen AL *et al*.. Arthritis Rheum 2011, 63: 713-21. Mammen AL *et al*. Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken) 2012;64:269-72. Werner JL *et al*. Arthritis Rheum. 2012;64:4087-93

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