We retrospectively assessed steatosis prevalence and levels with patient outcome and complications. (13) of steatosis in HBV/HCV coinfection, patients vs HCV monoinfected patients, even in the subgroup coinfected HBV/HCV) there was no difference in steatosis distribution between coinfected and HCV group (42% vs 44%, p=0.40). When including only HCV genotype 3 patients with BMI< 25 kg/m², a significant difference in steatosis prevalence between the HBV/HCV coinfected group and the HCV group (42% vs 44%, p=0.04). When including only HCV genotype 3 patients with BMI< 25 kg/m² (n=12 coinfected HBV/HCV) there was no difference in steatosis distribution and severity between coinfected and HCV monoinfected patients (p=0.28).

Conclusions: Based on these preliminary findings it appears that HBV may be a risk factor for steatosis development in patients with HCV infection. However, more patients need to be included to correlate serum SO2 levels with patient outcome and complications.

EUS-guided fine needle aspiration (EUS-FNA) in pancreatic masses: a prospective randomized study comparing the yield of 22G and 25G needle in the same patient

Rocco Grignoli1, Philippe Vaseur1, Giacomo Puppa2, Thai Nguyen1, Muriel Genevey1, Jean-Louis Frossard2

1Service of gastroenterology and hepatology, HUG-Geneva (CH) / 2Service of gastroenterology, CHU Poitiers (F) / 3Service of clinical pathology, Geneva (CH)

Introduction: EUS-FNA has become a standard in pancreatic masses diagnosis. It can be performed with a 22G or a 25 G needle. It remains unclear if the 25G needle has the same diagnostic yield as the 22G. To evaluate it, we performed a prospective, randomized, double-blind, non-inferiority study.

Patients and methods: Patients presenting with pancreatic solid masses between July 2010 and June 2012 were included. They underwent EUS-FNA using a 22G needle and 25G needle during the same endoscopic session. Three passages without stylet were performed with each needle. The 25G and 22G needle sequence being randomized. Cytological preparations included smear cytology, ThinPrep and Cell Block. Specimens were analyzed for diagnosis, cellularity, amount of blood and digestive contamination. Final diagnosis was based on cytology report, surgical pathological and, if available, repeated diagnosis imaging and clinical follow-up.

Results: 37 patients were included. For 34 malignant pancreatic neoplasms was the final diagnosis. Diagnosis yield of 25G and 22G needles were 85.3% (29 patients) and 88.2% (30 patients) respectively (p=0.75). The quality of specimens was comparable regarding cellularity, blood and digestive contamination. No complication occurred.

Conclusion: Our study demonstrates the non-inferiority of the 25G needle’s performance compared the 22G for the diagnosis of pancreatic masses.

Intraoperative microperfusion patterns during colorectal resection: Preliminary results of 18 patients.

Henry Hoffmann1, Tarik Delko2, Christian Nebel2, Marko Kraljevic3, Juliane Schäfer1, Rachel Rosenthal1, Christoph Kettelhack1

1Division of Visceral Surgery, University Hospital Basel; 2Basel Institute for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University Hospital Basel

Background: Perfusion impairment at the anastomotic site is one of the most important risk factors for anastomotic leakage (AL). Visual assessment of intestinal microsurgery during surgery has been found to be insufficient to predict AL. Microperfusion patterns during surgery are unknown and reliable intraoperative assessment of intestinal microperfusion is not established yet.

Methods: Patients undergoing colorectal resection between July 2013 and March 2014 were recruited. Measurements using a Visible Light Spectroscope (VLS) were conducted during colorectal resection. Reference: at the caecum (M1) and proximal to planned resection (M2). After resection, M3 distal and M4 to the planned resection. After anastomosis: 1-2cm proximal (M5) and distal (M6) to the anastomosis.

Results: 18 patients with median age of 70y (IQR 56; 79) were included. Main operation was laparoscopic sigmoidectomy (5, 9, 50%). Median duration of VLS measurement was 2:09 min (IQR 1:30, 5:45). The following median (IQR) serosal StO2 were observed: M1: 67% (60; 70), M2: 66% (57, 68), M3: 71% (57, 76), M4: 58% (52; 74), M5: 70% (57, 75), M6: 69% (61, 76).

Conclusions: Intraoperative microperfusion patterns during colorectal resection show individual differences with a trend of increasing variability of StO2 following mobilization and anastomosis.

CD62L (L-Selectin) Shedding for Assessment of Functional Blockade of TNF-Alpha in Anti-TNF Treated IBD Patients: Clinical Feasibility & Perspectives


1Gastroenterology, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, Bern; 2Gastroenterology, Tiefenau hospital, Bern

Background: Tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibition is central to the therapy of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). However, the durability and efficacy of this blockade has been limited. Better understanding is crucial for the prognosis of long-term treatment and decision making in case of loss of response (LOR) to these costly drugs.

Methods: Consecutive IBD Patients receiving anti-TNF agents from inselInsipital were identified and followed prospectively. Patient whole blood was stimulated with a dose-titration of either human TNF or the TRL agonist lipopolysaccharide (LPS) followed by flow cytometry. Median fluorescence intensity of CD62L on the surface of granulocytes. The change in EC50 (the concentration of TNF required to induce a 50% shedding of surface CD62L) following the anti-TNF agent, was used to predict the in vivo response, which was then correlated to the clinical prospective evaluation of LOR to Anti-TNFs.

Results: We collected prospective clinical data and blood samples, before and after anti-TNF agent, on 33 IBD patients, 25 Crohn's disease and 8 ulcerative colitis patients (45% females) between mid-2012 and end 2013. The assay showed a functional blockade of TNF (PFR) for 22 patients (17 CD and 5 UC) whereas 11 (8 CD and 3 UC) had no functional response (NR) to TNF blockade. Clinical characteristics (e.g. diagnosis, disease location, smoking status and BMI) as well as # of infusions were not significantly different between predicted PFR and NR. Among the 22 patients with PFR, only 1 patient was a clinical non-responder (LOR to anti-TNF), based on clinical prospective evaluation of LOR, 9 had a clinical response (LOR) at 0 weeks. LOR was then confirmed by IBD gastroenterologists (PJ, FS and AM), and among the 11 predicted NR, 3 had no clinical LOR. Sensitivity of this test was 95% and specificity 71%. AUC adjusted for age and gender was 0.81. During follow up (median 10 months, range 3-15) 8 “hard” outcomes occurred (3 medc. fares, 4 resections and 1 new fistula) in the PFR and 6 in the NR group (25% vs. 75%; p<0.01).

Conclusions: CD62L (L-Selectin) shedding is the first validated test for functional blockade of TNF alpha in anti-TNF treated IBD Patients and will be a useful tool to guide medical decision on the use of anti-TNF agents. Studies with AT and trough level of the drugs are ongoing.

EUS-FNA for Assessment of Long-Term Microsurgical Blood Flow Patterns During Colorectal Resection: Preliminary Results of 18 Patients

Juliane Schäfer1(1), Rocco Grignoli1, Philippe Vaseur2, Andrew J. Macpherson2, James Macpherson2

1Gastroenterology, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, Bern; 2Gastroenterology, Tiefenau Hospital, Bern

Background: Assessment of intestinal microperfusion during colorectal surgery is crucial for the prognosis of long-term treatment and decision making in case of loss of response (LOR) to these drugs.

Methods: Consecutive IBD Patients receiving anti-TNF agents from inselInselpital were identified and followed prospectively. Patient whole blood was stimulated with a dose-titration of either human TNF or the TRL agonist lipopolysaccharide (LPS) followed by flow cytometry. Median fluorescence intensity of CD62L on the surface of granulocytes. The change in EC50 (the concentration of TNF required to induce a 50% shedding of surface CD62L) following the anti-TNF agent, was used to predict the in vivo response, which was then correlated to the clinical prospective evaluation of LOR to Anti-TNFs.

Results: We collected prospective clinical data and blood samples, before and after anti-TNF agent, on 33 IBD patients, 25 Crohn's disease and 8 ulcerative colitis patients (45% females) between mid-2012 and end 2013. The assay showed a functional blockade of TNF (PFR) for 22 patients (17 CD and 5 UC) whereas 11 (8 CD and 3 UC) had no functional response (NR) to TNF blockade. Clinical characteristics (e.g. diagnosis, disease location, smoking status and BMI) as well as # of infusions were not significantly different between predicted PFR and NR. Among the 22 patients with PFR, only 1 patient was a clinical non-responder (LOR to anti-TNF), based on clinical prospective evaluation of LOR, 9 had a clinical response (LOR) at 0 weeks. LOR was then confirmed by IBD gastroenterologists (PJ, FS and AM), and among the 11 predicted NR, 3 had no clinical LOR. Sensitivity of this test was 95% and specificity 71%. AUC adjusted for age and gender was 0.81. During follow up (median 10 months, range 3-15) 8 “hard” outcomes occurred (3 medc. fares, 4 resections and 1 new fistula) in the PFR and 6 in the NR group (25% vs. 75%; p<0.01).

Conclusions: CD62L (L-Selectin) shedding is the first validated test for functional blockade of TNF alpha in anti-TNF treated IBD Patients and will be a useful tool to guide medical decision on the use of anti-TNF agents. Studies with AT and trough level of the drugs are ongoing.