The new generation of complement inhibitors and implications for clinical practice and vaccination policy

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Activation of the complement

Humoral innate
immunity system
Acute-phase
proteins
19 plasma and at
least 9 membrane
proteins



Harris et al., Molecular Immunology 102 (2018) 89–119

Complement pathophysiology



AD, Alzheimer's disease AMD, Age-related macular degeneration DAMP, damage-associated molecular pattern; DDD, dense deposit disease; PAMP, pathogen-associated molecular pattern; PMN, polymorphonuclear cell; PNH, paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria; SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus.

Ricklin & Lambris J Immunol. 2013

Pipeline for anti-complement drugs in the kidney, eye and vasculature



Half-life of ravulizumab is 4 times longer than that of eculizumab (Lee et al., Blood, 2016)

Complement inhibition and hemolysis in PNH



Lysis of PNH RBC - Insertion of C5b-9 MAC (intravascular hemolysis) - Opsonization with C3b (extravascular hemolysis)

Lysis of PNH RBC is still occurring Opsonization with C3b (extravascular hemolysis)

Risk groups for IMD

Medical reasons

- Close contacts of patients with IMD;

- Subjects with a terminal complement deficiency or who are receiving anti-C5 treatment (and other future anti-complement treatment)

- Subjects with other complement deficiencies (properdin Factor D)
- Subjects with anatomical or functional asplenia;

- Subjects who received a hematopoietic stem cell transplantation

- HIV

- Association with viral infection (flu)

Occupational/societal reasons

Travellers, pilgrims, mass gathering events, military, laboratory staff working on meningococci, MSM, Students

Epidemic Situations

Complement and IMD

Inherited and drug induced complement deficiencies.

- 13% of IMD revealed complement deficiencies in South Africa (Owen *et al.*, *S Afr Med* 2012).
- One third of group Y IMD revealed complement deficiency France (Le Bastard et al., Pathol Biol, 1989).
- 7/22 (32%) patients with NG IMD had complement deficiency or abnormal complement testing results (McNamara *et al.*,, *Open Forum Infect Dis* 6, 2019).
- Among 160 patients with complete TPD; 56 patients (39%) showed confirmed IMD (France 1999-2015)(Rosain et al., J.Infect Dis 2017)
- 16 patients in England with inherited or acquired complement deficiencies (2008-2017) (Ladhani et al., BMC Infect Dis 2019).

Complement deficiencies and IMD: Isolates

Rosain et al., J.Infect Dis 2017, El Sissy et al., Frontiers in Immunology 2019) : France 1999-2018

Type of deficiency	N° of isolates/episodes (patients)	Isolates (n)	Fatal cases
TPD	63 (59)	B(19); C(2); <mark>Y(29);</mark> W(9); E(4); <u>NG(1)</u>	1
Factor D	1 (1)	B (1)	0
Properdin	1 (1)	Y (1)	1
Eculizumab	3 (3)	Y(2); C(1)	0

Ladhani et al., BMC Infect Dis 2019 : England 2008-2017

Type of deficiency	N° of isolates/episodes (patients)	isolates
Inherited	11(8)	B(3); <mark>Y(7)</mark> ; NG(1)
Eculizumab	9 (8)	B(3+ <u>3NG</u>); <mark>Y(1)</mark> ; W(1); E(1)

- Heterogeneous isolates
- Frequent Y, E and NG isolates
- Only 21% belonging hyper-invasive CC (France)

Coverage of serogroup B and E isolates of the TPD patients by the 4CMenB vaccine



Data NRC, Institut pasteur

Immunogenicity of MCC in a patient with aHUS on eculizumab therapy



- TCC concentration reflects the ability to activate the complement system
- But SBA response seems to be impaired under treatment

Zlamy et al., Pediatr Transplantation 2012:

Penicillin-resistant case of IMD in patient on Eculizumab therapy

- Case of IMD due to a vaccine-preventable and penicillin-resistant strain in a fully immunised young adult (22 years) on long-term complement inhibitor therapy and daily penicillin chemoprophylaxis.
- First case of meningococcal group B vaccine failure in a young adult receiving Eculizumab for aHUS.
- Developed IMD due to capsular group B 4 months after receiving 2 doses of 4CMenB vaccine while on oral penicillin prophylaxis.
- Strain ST-162 (pathogenic potential).
- Capsular gene SiaDb interrupted by an insertion sequence.
- > PenA allele contained 3 mutations associated with reduced penicillin sensitivity.
- > PenA allele previously associated with *N. gonorrhoeae*.
- Strain confirmed covered by 4CMenB by MATS by NHBA antigen.

Courtesy from Prof R. Borrow

Penicillin resistant in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2010/11-2017/18)



Courtesy from Prof R. Borrow. PHE unpublished data.

Susceptibility to penicillin G



Data NRC, MK Taha, Institut pasteur, Unpublished data

Penicillin is still effective against intermediate (resistant) isolates (mouse model)

Mice infected i.p. with isogenic susceptible or intermediate isolates (MIC0.5mg/L)



Belkacem et al., Antimicrob Agents Chemother 2016).

Conclusions (1)

- Increasing evidence of association of complement activation and degenerative diseases
- Anti-complement treatment may be benefic
- Complement deficiencies can be associated with increase susceptibility to IMD.
- Serogroup Y isolates predominate but NG can be important under anticomplement treatment
- Explore complement systematically when IMD is provoked with non hyperinvasive isolates.
- Explore complement systematically if IMD with vaccine preventable serogroup in vaccinated patients.
- If an inherited complement deficiency confirmed in the patient then explore the members of the family.
- Exploration of not only the determination of the CH50 activity but also the alternative pathway.

Conclusions (2)

- Vaccination of subjects with complement deficiencies (inherited and acquired) against ACWY and B
- Vaccination in not enough. Antibiotic treatment is required (High dose penicillin V ≥ 250 000 IU/Kg/day).
- Rescue antibiotics (i.e. self-treatment with a treatment course of amoxicillin (+ penicillin), ciprofloxacin or other antibiotics to be defined when unwell)?
- Vaccination of household contacts of subjects with complement deficiencies (cocooning strategy).