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ABSTRACT



5th International Congress of Pathophysiology

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The effect of antifungal drug caspofungin and meropenem on disseminated candidiasis: An FTIR study

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The continuous increase of human candidiasis is associated with a high mortality rate. In the present study, the effect of caspofungin (monotherapy), an antifungal drug, and the effect of caspofungin plus meropenem (combined therapy) on a murine model of disseminated candidiasis were investigated. Mice were grouped as control, infected and therapy groups. Drug therapy was evaluated on two therapy groups as group 1: caspofungin at 0.5 mg/kg/day and group 2: 0.5 mg/kg/day caspofungin plus 20 mg/kg/twice daily meropenem. Liver samples from all groups were evaluated by Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy. The results revealed that infection causes changes in the liver tissue by decreasing the saturated lipid content and increasing the lipid/protein ratio. Although the monotherapy of caspofungin has restoring effect, it was found that the combined therapy was more effective in restoring the disease-induced changes. A possible synergistic effect between meropenem and caspofungin in combined therapy may took place. In the samples of infected group, lipid peroxidation was also observed. However, the drug therapy was found to be not effective for recovering the peroxidation.

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Autoimmune thyroid disease in the patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis

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Autoimmune thyroid disease (AITD) has been described in the patients with systemic autoimmune diseases. The aim of this study is to estimate the prevalence of AITD in the patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA). We analysed the thyroid function and anti - thyroid autoantibodies concentrations in the sera of 53 SLE patients, 24 RA patients and 34 healthy blood volunteers (control group). The levels of free thyroxine (FT4), thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), as well as anti - thyroperoxidase (anti - TPO) and anti - thyroglobulin (anti - Tg) antibodies (Abs) have been determined using CISbiointernational kits. According to the FT4 and TSH concentrations the subjects were considered to have subclinical or clinical thyroid dysfunction. Twelve (22.64%) SLE patients and five (20.83%) RA patients had thyroid dysfunction, which was significantly more than one subject in the control group ($P < 0.05$). Eight SLE patients (15.1%) had hypothyroidism, 3 of them had anti - TPO Abs, one anti - Tg Abs, and 4 the both anti - thyroid Abs. Four SLE patients (7.54%) had hyperthyroidism, one had anti - TPO Abs and one had the both types of Abs. Four RA patients (16.67%) had hypothyroidism, 2 of them had anti - TPO Ab, 1 had anti - Tg Abs and 1 had the both Abs. Only one RA patient (4.17%) was subclinically hyperthyroid without anti - thyroid antibodies. One control subject (2.94%) with subclinical hypothyroidism had anti - Tg Abs, and two control subjects (5.88%) with anti - TPO Abs had normal thyroid function. Considering altered thyroid function and anti - thyroid Abs, we could conclude that the prevalence of AITD is more frequent in SLE and RA patients than in control group. The prevalence of hypothyroidism is greater than hyperthyroidism in both groups of patients.

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Clinical, serological and genetic profiles of patients with associated Sjögren's syndrome (SS) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)

Margit Zeher, Emese Kiss, Aniko Kapitany, Peter Szodoray, Gyula Szegedi, Antonia Szanto