

EXPRESSÃO DE PROTEÍNAS REGULADORAS DO COMPLEMENTO CD55/CD59 EM CÉLULAS DE SANGUE PERIFÉRICO DE PACIENTES COM LÚPUS ERITEMATOSO SISTÊMICO.

ANA PAULA ALEGRETTI; JOICE MERZONI; TAMARA MUCENIC; GUSTAVO A. M. FAULHABER; LUCIA M. SILLA; JOÃO C. T. BRENOL; RICARDO M. XAVIER

CD55 and CD59 are glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchored proteins with complement inhibitory properties. CD55 inhibits the formation of C3 convertases, and CD59 prevents the terminal polymerization of the membrane attack complex. It has been reported that SLE patients have an acquired deficiency of CD55 and CD59 proteins associated with secondary autoimmune haemolytic anaemia and lymphopenia. The mechanisms of this disorder remain unclear and its impact on the clinical manifestation of SLE needs more study. The aim of this study was to evaluate the presence of altered CD55 and CD59 expression on peripheral blood cells from SLE patients. Flow cytometric analyses were performed on CD55 and CD59 stained red and white blood cells from 23 SLE patients and 23 sex- and age-matched healthy controls. There were no significant statistical differences in CD55+ and CD59+ cell proportions when monocytes and red cells were compared between the groups. However, we observed more CD55- and CD59- lymphocytes ($p=0.005$ and $p=0.019$, respectively), and CD59- granulocytes ($p=0.045$) in SLE patients than in controls. The CD55 membrane intensity on SLE red cells (p