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Performance of the Meso Scale Multiplex Platform in the Assessment of Serum Cytokines/Chemokines in Rheumatoid Arthritis

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Conclusion: Prompt recognition of extrahepatic collaterals of HCC plays a key role in increasing the efficacy of TACE. The most common collateral supply is from the inferior phrenic artery. Several imaging clues often suggest potential development of parasitic blood supply, and in such cases we recommend IPA angiography be preformed during TACE procedures. Prophylactic embolization of non-tumor feeding IPA branches is important in avoiding non-target embolization. ■

<https://doi.org/10.32873/unmc.dc.gmerj.2.1.087>

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Performance of the Meso Scale Multiplex Platform in the Assessment of Serum Cytokines/Chemokines in Rheumatoid Arthritis

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Mentor: Ted Mikuls

Program: Internal Medicine

Type: Original Research

Background: Cytokines and chemokines (cytokines) are central to RA pathogenesis, a fact underscored by the emergence of multiplex immunoassays for quantifying cytokine values. Intrinsic factors to rheumatoid arthritis (RA), namely rheumatoid factor (RF), may interfere with assay outcomes by nonspecifically binding

detection analytes. Thus, we evaluated the performance of a commercially available multiplex platform and assessed the impact of RF depletion.

Methods: Forty-five cytokines were tested using the Meso Scale Discovery V-PLEXTM immunoassays and serum from 40 RA and 40 osteoarthritis (OA) patients. Select samples were depleted of RF using a commercial binder. Performance was assessed using intraclass correlation coefficients of variation (CV), intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC), percent change

following RF depletion, and discriminative ability between RA and OA.

Results: Of the 44 cytokines analyzed in duplicate, 22 yielded CVs <10%; only 3 demonstrated CVs >30%. ICCs universally exceeded 0.85 with the exception of seven analytes. RF depletion altered cytokine values by <15% for 28 analytes with larger changes (>30%) seen for nine analytes. Of the 45 analytes tested, 24 differed based on measurement in plasma vs. serum. Analytes were frequently greater in RA vs. OA, but

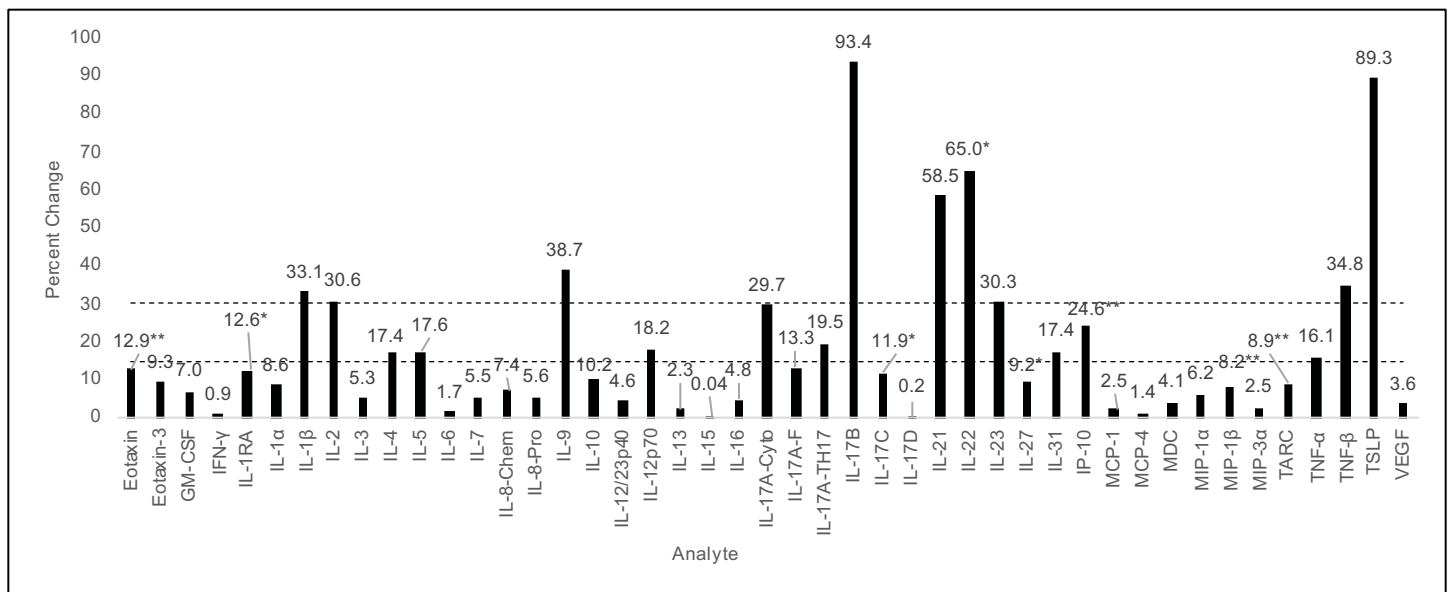


Figure 1. Mean absolute percent change in analyte concentration following RF depletion.

* Wilcoxon signed-rank test p-value < 0.05

** Wilcoxon signed-rank test p-value < 0.01

Of the 45 analytes, 28 exhibited <15% change, eight showed intermediate changes (15-30%), and nine demonstrated >30% change. RED lines indicate cut off points.

only 3 reached statistical significance (IL-10, IP-10, TNF α), and none were significantly greater in OA vs. RA.

Conclusion: Although this commercially available multiplex assay generally performed well in the context of RA, interference induced by RF meaningfully impacted the quantification of one in five analytes examined. ■

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Running Miles Without the Smiles; an Exploration of Alternative Treatment

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Mentor: Rebecca L. Peebles

Program: Family Medicine

Type: Case Report

Background: A 42-year-old male presented to sports clinic with bilateral anterolateral lower leg pain for 1.5 years. Pain is exacerbated by running with associated painful swelling and “small bulges” along the anterolateral legs. Symptoms arise within 8 minutes of activity and cease within 5-10 minutes of rest. Physical therapy was unsuccessful.

Methods:

- Bilateral Lower Extremity Exam:
 - » Inspection: Normal
 - » Palpation: Normal
 - » ROM: Normal
 - » Special Tests: Resisted ROM testing and tuning fork exam normal
- Bilateral LE X-ray and MRI: normal
 - » Compartment Pressure Testing: See Table 1
 - » Elevated post-exercise compartment pressures noted
 - » With exercise, 2 cm tender bulge present on lateral lower legs bilaterally

Results: The patient’s final diagnosis was bilateral chronic exertional compartment syndrome (CECS) with associated fascial hernias. After counseled on treatment options including gait retraining, botulinum toxin injections, and fasciotomy, he received 50 units botulinum toxin at each legs’ anterior and lateral compartments. Within 3 weeks he reported 70% improvement and later completed gait retraining without pain.

Conclusion: Lower extremity fascial hernias may present with or without CECS symptoms. CECS is reversible, exercise induced ischemia at a predictable level of exercise due to noncompliant osseofascial compartments. Numerous cases support botulinum toxin injections for CECS, but little evidence exists for its use in fascial hernias. This

sparks the question if compartment testing and botulinum toxin treatment should be considered for all fascial hernias, including those without CECS symptoms. With physical therapy and gait retraining, this offers an alternate approach to fasciotomy. ■

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Table 1. Compartment testing before and after exercise (in mm Hg).

	Pre-Exercise Left Leg	Post-Exercise Left Leg	Pre-Exercise Right Leg	Post-Exercise Right Leg
Anterior	11	81	12	30
Lateral	18	35	17	22
Deep Posterior	7	26	6	7
Superficial Posterior	13	19	10	20

Anesthetic Considerations for Sjögren-Larsson Syndrome

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Mentor: Michelle LeRiger, Marcellene Franzen, Kaitlyn Pellegrino

Program: Anesthesiology

Type: Case Report

Background: Sjögren-Larsson syndrome (SLS) is a rare autosomal recessive neurocutaneous disorder caused by a mutation in the gene encoding fatty aldehyde dehydrogenase. SLS is characterized by

generalized ichthyosis, seizures, cognitive disability, spasticity, and ophthalmologic changes. Limited resources are available to guide anesthetic management for patients with SLS. This case series seeks to identify anesthetic considerations in patients with SLS.

Methods: After IRB approval, a chart review of anesthetic records of SLS patients from February 2013 to October 2019 was conducted. Data included age, gender, relevant comorbid conditions

(Table 1), induction and maintenance agents, intravenous and oral analgesics, muscle relaxants, procedure performed, and complications.

Results: A total of 14 patients undergoing 47 anesthetic cases were identified. Cases included brain MRI, botulinum toxin injection, tendon release, and dental restoration. General anesthesia was performed for nearly all procedures. The most common observations were related to ichthyosis, including difficulty