ABSTRACT BOOK ABSTRACTS



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INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

PILOT STUDY ON HIGHER RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS IN VITILIGO PATIENTS AT A TERTIARY CARE CENTRE IN NORTH INDIA

A Singh⁽¹⁾ - R Chander⁽²⁾ - R Singh⁽³⁾

Kubba Skin Clinic, Dermatology, New Delhi, India⁽¹⁾ - Lady Hardinge Medical College, Dermatology, New Delhi, India⁽²⁾ - Lady Hardinge Medical College, Biochemistry, New Delhi, India⁽³⁾

BACKGROUND: The etiopathogenesis of vitiligo is complex and involves the interplay of inflammation, autoimmunity and oxidative stress among others. Insulin resistance and raised homocysteine levels have also been found in these patients. Proinflammatory and oxidative milieu is responsible for development of early atherosclerotic plaques. Elevated homocysteine level is an independent risk factor for atherogenesis. Hence, it is possible that vitiligo patients maybe predisposed to atherosclerosis.

OBJECTIVE: To determine the level of serological biomarkers of early subclinical atherosclerosis in vitiligo patients to establish any likely association.

METHODOLOGY: 35 vitiligo patients and 30 age and sex matched healthy controls with no previous history of cardiocascular disease were enrolled in our study. Blood samples from each of the subjects were obtained for determination of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein(hsCRP) and oxidized low-density lipoprotein(oxLDL) by enzyme immunoassay along with total cholesterol, triglycerides, high-density lipoprotein(HDL) levels.

RESULTS: The difference between mean serum hsCRP level in vitiligo cases(3.9±2.3mg/l) and controls(2.3±1.4mg/l) was highly significant(p<0.01). Serum oxLDL level was also significantly higher in cases(313.5±157.3pg/dl) than in controls(172.1±103.8pg/dl;p<0.05). The HDL level was low in cases as compared to controls(<50 mg/dl in females and <40 mg/dl in males;p<0.05). Triglycerides were raised in cases than controls(141.8±57.1mg/dl, 111.13±34.56mg/dl;p<0.005). There was no difference in the total cholesterol level.

CONCLUSIONS: We propose that vitiligo patients are at a higher risk of developing atherosclerosis. Screening of such individuals would help in early diagnosis and treatment of subclinical atherosclerosis. Nonetheless, larger multicentric studies utilizing other serological and radiological markers of early atherosclerosis would assist in establishing this correlation.





