



PSORIASIS

CLINICAL AND IMMUNOLOGICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF PSORIASIS PATIENTS WITH LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION

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Introduction: Latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) is a growing concern for treatment of psoriasis, as the use of biologics has recently increased. LTBI may also be associated with chronic inflammatory status that results in a change in immune status.

Objective: This study was performed to investigate the clinical and immunological influence of LTBI on the manifestations of psoriasis.

Materials and Methods: We conducted a retrospective analysis for 300 patients with psoriasis using clinical information, including severity, comorbidities, and presence of LTBI. Serum cytokine levels were measured for immunological analysis.

Results: Psoriatic arthritis and nail involvement was observed in 24% and 17% of all patients, respectively. The prevalence of psoriatic arthritis ($p = 0.001$) and nail psoriasis ($p = 0.014$) in patients with LTBI was significantly higher than in those without LTBI, although other data including the psoriasis area severity index showed no association. The serum levels of interleukin (IL)-6, IL-8, and IL-23A in the LTBI-positive group were greater than those in the LTBI-negative group ($p = 0.014$ for IL-6, $p = 0.025$ for IL-8, and $p = 0.004$ for IL-23A).

Conclusions: LTBI may be a risk factor for the development of psoriatic arthritis through an increase in the levels of inflammatory cytokines, including IL-6, IL-8, and IL-23A.

