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The impact of IL-6 levels to activate immune system as pro-inflammatory properties in patients with CHB infection

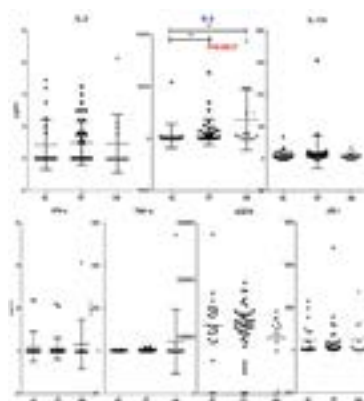
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Background & Aim: Interleukin 6(IL-6) has a context-dependent pro- and anti-inflammatory properties. Here we evaluate the impact of IL-6 levels according to the natural history of chronic hepatitis B (CHB) infection.

Methods: Patients (n=71) with hepatitis B virus (HBV) were enrolled between September 2015 and April 2016. For the treatment naïve chronic HBV carriers were recruited. We examined serum levels of IL-6, using cytometric bead array. We studied patients with inactive CHB phase (HBV DNA<1,000 copies/ml, anti-HBeAg+ and normal ALT, n=22), immune tolerant phase (HBV DNA>10,000 copies/ml, HBeAg+ and normal ALT, n=36), and immune active phase (elevated ALT and HBV DNA>10,000 copies/ml, n=13).

Results: Serum IL-6 levels in patients with immune active phase were significantly higher than patients with inactive CHB phase (IL-6: 1.815 ± 803.2 vs. 267.3 ± 245.6 pg/mL) ($p < 0.001$). IL-6 levels in patients with immune active phase were significantly higher than patients with immune tolerant phase (IL-6: 1.815 ± 803.2 vs. 620.2 ± 207.8 pg/mL) ($p < 0.001$). Serum IL-6 level was significantly higher in patients with immune active phase compared with immune tolerant phase and inactive CHB phase (Kruskal-Wallis test, $p < 0.0017$).

Conclusions: We found the impact of IL-6 levels to activate immune system as pro-inflammatory properties in patients with CHB infection.



Biography

Hyun Woong Lee is a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Chung-Ang University Hospital since 2016. He completed his MD from the Yonsei University of Korea in 1997, followed by a residency in internal medicine and a clinical fellowship in hepatology at Chung-Ang University Hospital. He completed his PhD in Medicine from the Yonsei University of Korea in 2008. He was an Assistant and Associate Professor of the Chung-Ang University of Korea from 2008 to 2016, and was a Visiting Scientist at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA, from 2014 to 2015. He is a member of the Korean Association for the Study of the Liver (KASL) and the Korean Liver Cancer Association (KLCA).

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