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Human herpesvirus type 8 in tuberculosis patients with or without effusions

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Many patients with tuberculosis (TB) are seropositive for human herpesvirus type 8 (HHV-8) and many patients with primary effusion lymphoma have high levels of HHV-8 DNA in their effusions. However, the status of HHV-8 in the effusions of patients with TB remains unclear. Blood samples were collected from 129 patients with pulmonary TB and 129 age- and sex-matched healthy controls. Forty of the TB patients had pleural or peritoneal effusions and 38 of these effusions were available. Both blood and effusion samples were analyzed for lymphocyte and monocyte counts and/or HHV-8 antibodies and DNA. TB patients with or without effusions had significantly greater HHV-8 seropositivity ($P=0.009$) and titers of HHV-8 antibodies ($P=0.005$) than healthy controls. The seropositivity and blood titers of HHV-8 antibodies were similar in TB patients with and without effusions. Among TB patients with effusions, similar percentages had seropositive plasma and seropositive effusions. Plasma samples of 6 TB patients but none of the healthy controls were positive for HHV-8 DNA ($P=0.03$). TB patients with or without effusions had lower blood lymphocyte counts and higher blood monocyte counts than healthy controls ($P<0.0001$ for both). TB patients with effusions had significantly lower blood lymphocyte counts than those without effusions ($P=0.035$). TB patients with and without effusions had similar and greater HHV-8 seroprevalence compared with healthy controls. However, TB patients with effusions had lower blood lymphocyte counts than those without effusions.

Biography

Cheng-Chuan Su has completed his Residency training in Anatomic Pathology and in Clinical Pathology and obtained his Master's degree from the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan. Presently, he is the attending Physician of Department of Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology, Buddhist Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital and the Associate Professor of Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Tzu Chi University, Taiwan. He has published more than 40 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of repute.

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