Effects of malaria infection at delivery on the profile of two biomarkers of the immune response in women living in Yaoundé, Cameroon.


Suzanne Hippolite Magagoum1,3 Rosette Megnekou1,3, Simon Metenou2, Jean Claude Djontu1,3, Abel Lissom1,3, Philomena Nyonglema3 and Rose FG Leke3,4

1Faculty of Sciences, University of Yaounde I, Cameroon, 2National Institute of Allergy and Infection Diseases, NIH, USA, 3Biotechnology Center, University of Yaounde I Cameroon, 4Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Science, University of Yaounde I, Cameroon

Email: suzannehippolite@yahoo.fr  Tél: 00 237 679627090

Introduction /background:

- Plasmodium falciparum infected erythrocytes (IEs) in pregnant women can be sequestered in the placenta and this leads to placental malaria which might endanger the both mother and foetus lives [1], [2], [3].
- The sequestration of these infected erythrocytes in the placenta tissu would be at the origin of imbalance of the secretion’s profil of chemokines and cytokines at this site.
- Chemokine CXCL-10 has the particularity to act mainly on the T helper cells 1 by attracting them on the infected sites [4] and, Interleukin IL-19 stimulates the production of T helpers cells 2 which down regulate the exaggerate action of pro inflammatory cytokines [5].

Aims:

This study aimed to determine the effects of the chemokine CXCL-10 and the cytokine IL-19 in the pathogenesis of placental malaria.

Methods:

- After obtaining an Ethical Clearance, peripheral and placental blood and, a biopsy of placental tissue (for impression smear) were collected just after delivery from 140 women (infected or no).
- Parasitemia and leukocyte differential counts were determined microscopically, and Hemoglobin levels were measured with Hemocue.
- Plasma concentrations of CXCL-10 and IL-19 were measured by ELISA method.
- Statistical analysis was performed using Sigma Stat software and the difference was significant for P< 0,05.

Results:

- The proportion of pregnant women at delivery who had placental malaria was 19.3 %.

About CXCL-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Some placental leukocytes</th>
<th>CXCL-10</th>
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<td>Peripheral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monocytes impression</td>
<td>0,19</td>
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<td>Lymphocytes impression</td>
<td>0,25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neutrophiles impression</td>
<td>-0,37</td>
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</tbody>
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Correlation between some placental leukocytes and CXCL-10

- About IL-19: There was no significant relationship between IL-19 levels and malaria infection and leukocytes count, although its level was higher in placenta than peripheral plasma, it was not significant (p=0.54).

Conclusion:

These results suggest that the chemotactic effect of chemokine CXCL-10 might lead to the protection of mothers living in Yaoundé against the pathogenesis of this disease through the attraction of monocytes and lymphocytes into the placenta. For more information, see Megnekou et al., 2015. Acta tropica.

References:


Dufour et al, 2002. IFN-gamma-inducible protein 10 (IP-10 ; CXCL10)-deficient mice reveal a role for IP-10 in effector T cell generation and trafficking. Journal of Immunology. 168: 3195 - 3204


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