

ACTIVATION AND ADHESION MARKERS IN T CELLS AND MACROPHAGES IN BRONCHO ALVEOLAR LAVAGE OF PATIENTS WITH SARCOIDOSIS

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Sarcoidosis is a multisystem granulomatous disease of unknown etiology. The lungs are affected in more than 90% of cases. A high CD4/CD8 ratio in Broncho Alveolar Lavage (BAL) is found in sarcoidosis but can also be observed in other interstitial lung disease (ILD). Nevertheless, Sarcoidosis is a disorder characterized by an accumulation of activated T cells and macrophages at sites of disease activity. This phenomenon involves increased expression of adhesion molecules on macrophages and an increase in the expression of the activation marker associated with the evaluation of disease activity.

The aim of this study was to evaluate a potential role of activation and adhesion markers in T cells and macrophages in BAL of patients with sarcoidosis.

We studied explored activation and adhesion markers in T cells and macrophages in BAL by flow cytometry within 28 patients with ILD including confirmed sarcoidosis and tuberculosis.

We found that the proportion of CD8 T cells was significantly lower in sarcoidosis and tuberculosis with a higher percentage of CD4 T cells as well as a high CD4/CD8 ratio.

In sarcoidosis patients, increased proportions of early (CD25) and late (HLA-DR) activation molecules were observed. Moreover, significantly higher central memory marker was found in BAL. No statistically significant differences were found in adhesion markers expression between the study groups.

Thus, a systematic evaluation of BAL activation and memory parameters could allow a diagnostic discrimination of sarcoidosis from other ILD entities.

Key words: Sarcoidosis-Broncho alveolar lavage-Interstitial lung disease-Flow cytometry exploration.