

***B-cell-attracting chemokine CXCL13 as a marker
of disease activity and renal involvement
in systemic lupus erythematosus***

Thesis by

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"وَقُلْ اَعْمَلُوا فِى سَبِيْلِ اللَّهِ
عَمَلَكُمْ وَرِسْوَلِهِ
وَالْمُؤْمِنُوْنَ"

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

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ABSTRACT

This work aimed to study whether serum CXCL13 levels (1) are elevated in patients with SLE, (2) correlate with disease activity and (3) indicate renal involvement in SLE patients.

64 patients with SLE fulfilling the 1997 revised criteria for the classification of SLE and 20 age/ sex- matched healthy controls included in this study were subjected to full history taking, clinical examination, routine laboratory investigations as well as measurement of serum CXCL13 level.

Serum CXCL13 levels were found to be elevated in SLE patients and levels correlated with disease activity. In addition, CXCL13 levels were significantly higher in patients with active LN compared to those without renal involvement.

Keywords: Systemic lupus erythematosus - Lupus nephritis - CXCL13

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CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	
LIST OF FIGURES	
LIST OF DIAGRAMS	
LIST OF TABLES	
☒ INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK	
☒ REVIEW OF LITERATURE	
Chapter 1: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and Lupus Nephritis	1
• Part I: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus	1
• Part II: Pathogenesis of Lupus Nephritis	22
• Part III: Pathology of Lupus Nephritis	41
• Part IV: Treatment of Lupus Nephritis	58
Chapter 2: Chemokines	66
• Part I: Chemokines in health and disease	66
• Part II: CXC ligand 13 protein (CXCL13)	80
Chapter 3: Chemokines in lupus and other autoimmune disorders	89
• Part I: Role of chemokines in autoimmunity	89
• Part II: Chemokines in SLE and LN	92
• Part III: Chemokines in RA and other autoimmune disorders	99
☒ SUBJECTS AND METHODS	101
☒ RESULTS	105
☒ DISCUSSION	143
☒ SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	149
☒ RECOMMENDATIONS	152
☒ REFERENCES	153
☒ ARABIC SUMMARY	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

aa	Amino acid
ACE	Angiotensin converting enzyme
ACR	American College of Rheumatology
ANA	Antinuclear antibody
ANCA	Antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody
Anti-DNA	Anti- deoxyriboneuclic acid
Anti-Sm	Anti-Smith antibody
APC	Antigen-presenting cell
aPL	Antiphospholipid antibody
APRIL	A proliferation-inducing ligand
APS	Antiphospholipid syndrome
ARB	Angiotensin receptor blocker
BAFF	B-cell activating factor
BAFFR	B-cell activating factor receptor
BCA-1	B-cell-activating chemokine 1
BCMA	B-cell maturation protein
BILAG	The British Isles Lupus Assessment Group
BL	Burkitt lymphoma
BLC	B-lymphocyte chemoattractant
Blys	B-lymphocyte stimulator
BM	Basement membrane
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen
C	Complement
CAT	Catalase
CBC	Complete blood count
CD	Cluster of differentiation
CHD	Coronary heart disease
CLL	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
CNS	Central nervous system
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

CPG	Cytosine-phosphateguanine
CRP	C- reactive protein
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid
CTLA-4	Cytotoxic T-lymphocyte antigen 4
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident
CXCL13	CXC ligand 13
DAMPs	Damage associated molecular patterns
DC	Dendritic cell
DHEA	Dehydroepiandrosterone
DLBCL	Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
DLCO	Diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide
DLE	Discoid lupus erythematosus
dsDNA	Double stranded deoxyriboneuclic acid
EBV	Epstein Barr virus
ECG	Electrocardiogram
ECLAM	European Consensus Lupus Activity Measurement
ELISA	Enzyme-Linked Immunsorbant Assay
EM	Electron microscopy
ESR	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ESRD	End-stage renal disease
Fab	The antigen binding fragment of antibody
Fc	The constant fragment of antibody
g	Gram
GAS	IFN- γ activation site
GBM	Glomerular basement membrane
GFR	Glomerular filtration rate
glu-leu-arg	glutamine – leucine - arginine
GM-CSF	Granulocyte macrophage-colony stimulating factor
GN	Glomerulonephritis
GP	Glycoprotein
Gpx	Glutathione peroxidase
GSH	Glutathione

H2O2	Hydrogen peroxide
Hb	Hemoglobin
HER2	Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HLA	Human leucocyte antigen
HUS	Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome
IC	Immune complex
IF	Immunofluorescence
IFN-γ	Interferon-gamma
Ig	Immunoglobulin
IL	Interleukin
IP-10	Interferon- γ -inducible protein 10
IRF	Interferon regulatory factor
ISN	International Society of Nephrology
ISRE	Interferon stimulated responsive element
ITP	Immune thrombocytopenic purpura
JAK 1	Janus kinase-1
LAI	Lupus Activity Index
LC	Langerhans cells
LM	Light microscopy
LN	Lupus nephritis
LNB	Lyme neuroborreliosis
LPO	Lipid peroxidation
LPS	Lipopolysaccharide
MALT	Mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
MCAF	Monocyte chemotactic factor
MCP-1	Monocyte chemotactic protein-1
MDA	Malondialdehyde
MDSC	Myeloid-derived tumor suppressor cells
mg	Milligram
MHC	Major histocompatibility complex
MIG	Monokine induced by IFN- γ

mm	Millimeter
MMF	Mycophenlate mofetil
MPO	Myeloperoxidase
MRA	Magnetic resonance angiography
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
MS	Multiple sclerosis
NET	Neutrophil extracellular trap
NHL	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
NOD	Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain
NSAIDs	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
OPG	Osteoprotegerin
PAMPs	Pathogen-associated molecular patterns
PBMC	Peripheral blood mononuclear cells
PDC	Plasmacytoid dendritic cells
PDGF	Platelet derived growth factor
PLT	Platelets
PR3	Proteinase 3
PRR	Pattern recognition receptor
R	Receptor
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
RANTES	Regulated upon Activation, Normal T cell Expressed, and Secreted
RIG-1	Retinoic acid inducible gene I
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
RNP	Riponucleoprotein
ROC	Receiver Operating Characteristic
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
RPGN	Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
RPS	Renal Pathology Society
rSLEDAI	renal Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index
SD	Standard deviation
SDF-1	Stromal cell derived factor-1
SF	Synovial fibroblast

SLAM	Systemic Lupus Activity Measure
SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus
SLEDAI	Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index
SLO	Secondary lymphoid organ
SOD	Superoxide dismutase
TACI	Transmembrane activator and calcium modulating cyclophilin ligand interactor
T-ALL	T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia
TCR	T cell receptor
TFH	Follicular helper T cells
TGF-β	Transforming growth factor-beta
Th	T-helper
TLR	Toll-like receptors
TMA	Thrombotic microangiopathy
TNF-α	Tumor necrosis factor- α
tSLEDAI	total Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index
TTP	Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura
VCAM- 1	Vascular cell adhesion molecule-1
WBC	White blood cells
WHO	World health organization

LIST OF FIGURES

		Page
Figure (1)	Mesangial GN.	48
Figure (2)	Diffuse proliferative GN.	48
Figure (3)	Membranous GN.	48
Figure (4)	A case of LN class III-S (active) showing segmental endocapillary cellular proliferation.	135
Figure (5)	Another case of LN class III-S (active) showing segmental endocapillary cellular proliferation. The interstitium shows edema and inflammatory infiltrates.	135
Figure (6)	Another case of LN class III-S (active) showing segmental endocapillary cellular proliferations. The tubules show hydropic degeneration.	136
Figure (7)	Another case of LN class III-S (active / chronic) showing proliferation and segmental fibrosis.	136
Figure (8)	A case of LN class IV-G (active). All glomeruli show global endocapillary cellular proliferation.	137
Figure (9)	Higher magnification of the previous case showing proliferation and thick capillary basement membrane.	137
Figure (10)	A case of LN class IV (active) showing double contour appearance of the capillary basement membrane.	138
Figure (11)	Masson trichrome stain of the previous case showing double contour appearance.	138
Figure (12)	A case of LN class IV-G (active) showing proliferation and nuclear dust, thick capillary basement membrane with wire loop formation.	139
Figure (13)	Another case of LN class IV-S (active) showing segmental endocapillary cellular proliferation and thick capillary basement membrane with wire loop formation.	139
Figure (14)	Another case of LN class IV (active) showing segmental proliferation and thick capillary basement membrane with wire loop formation.	140
Figure (15)	The same case (figure 14) showing wire loop and hyaline thrombi.	140
Figure (16)	The previous case stained by Masson trichrome showing wire loop formation and hyaline thrombi.	141
Figure (17)	A case of LN class IV (active) with cellular crescent formation.	141
Figure (18)	A case of LN class V showing thickening of capillary basement membrane.	142
Figure (19)	A case of LN class V showing thickening of capillary basement membrane, interstitial fibrosis, thick arterioles and hyaline casts in the tubules.	142

LIST OF DIAGRAMS

		Page
Diagram (1)	A simplified scheme of binding of anti-C1q antibodies to molecules of C1q.	26
Diagram (2)	Schematic diagram to show the complex interaction between various immune cells and cytokines which lead to the pathogenesis of SLE.	36
Diagram (3)	Schematic representation of the location of ICs in glomeruli.	43
Diagram (4)	The incidence of different forms of GN.	51
Diagram (5)	Biological agents.	62
Diagram (6)	Chemokines and their receptors.	67
Diagram (7)	Chemokine receptor.	69
Diagram (8)	The process of chemotaxis.	71
Diagram (9)	Comparison between ESR values of SLE patients in relation to activity.	129
Diagram (10)	Comparison between serum albumin levels of SLE patients in relation to activity.	129
Diagram (11)	Comparison between 24 hour urinary proteins values of SLE patients in relation to activity.	130
Diagram (12)	Comparison between C3 levels of SLE patients in relation to activity.	130
Diagram (13)	Comparison between C4 levels of SLE patients in relation to activity.	131
Diagram (14)	Comparison between 24 hour urinary proteins values of active SLE patients in relation to renal affection.	131
Diagram (15)	Comparison between C3 levels of active SLE patients in relation to renal affection.	132
Diagram (16)	Comparison between C4 levels of active SLE patients in relation to renal affection.	132
Diagram (17)	Comparison between Hb levels of SLE patients (active and inactive) and controls.	133
Diagram (18)	Comparison between CXCL13 levels of SLE patients (active and inactive) and controls.	133
Diagram (19)	Correlation between CXCL13 and activity index of renal biopsies.	134
Diagram (20)	Correlation between CXCL13 and SLEDAI of all patients.	134
Diagram (21)	Correlation between CXCL13 and Anti DNA of all patients.	134

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table (1)	Modified 1997 classification criteria for SLE.	4
Table (2)	Commonly abnormal tests on body fluids in SLE.	13
Table (3)	SLE Disease Activity Index domains.	18
Table (4)	Important cytokines in SLE.	37
Table (5)	The 1995 WHO classification for LN.	42
Table (6)	Integration of LM, IF, and EM Findings by WHO Class.	44
Table (7)	ISN/RPS 2003 classification of LN.	46
Table (8)	The definition for diagnostic terms.	47
Table (9)	Renal biopsy activity and chronicity indexes.	50
Table (10)	Proposed features of APS nephropathy.	56
Table (11)	Expression of the chemokine receptor CXCR4 in a variety of tumors.	77
Table (12)	Overview of the main chemokines involved in different autoimmune diseases.	100
Table (13)	Demographic characteristics of studied SLE patients.	105
Table (14)	Descriptive statistics of clinical and laboratory variables of group I patients.	106
Table (15)	Frequency distribution of other data of group I patients.	107
Table (16)	Descriptive statistics of clinical and laboratory variables of group II patients.	108
Table (17)	Frequency distribution of other data of group II patients.	109
Table (18)	Descriptive statistics of group II patients with renal affection.	111
Table (19)	Frequency distribution of renal biopsy of group II patients with renal affection.	112
Table (20)	Frequency distribution of other data of SLE patients with activity and renal affection.	113
Table (21)	Descriptive statistics of group II patients with no renal affection.	114
Table (22)	Frequency distribution of other data of group II patients with no renal affection.	115
Table (23)	Descriptive statistics of controls.	116
Table (24)	Comparison between demographic and laboratory data of SLE patients in relation to activity.	117
Table (25)	Comparison between demographic and laboratory data of group II patients in relation to renal affection.	118
Table (26)	Comparison between CXCL13 in relation to renal biopsy.	119
Table (27)	Comparison between demographic and laboratory data of SLE patients (groups I and II) and controls (group III).	120
Table (28)	Correlation between CXCL13 with demographic and laboratory data of group I	120
Table (29)	Correlation between CXCL13 with demographic and laboratory data of group II	122
Table (30)	Correlation between CXCL13 with demographic and laboratory data of SLE patients with activity and no renal affection.	123
Table (31)	Correlation between CXCL13 with demographic and laboratory data of SLE patients with activity and renal affection.	125
Table (32)	Correlation between CXCL13 with demographic and laboratory data of all SLE patients included in the study.	127
Table (33)	Roc Curve of CXCL13, C3 and Anti DNA of SLE patients with and without renal involvement.	128

INTRODUCTION

Systemic lupus erythematosus is a chronic autoimmune disease affecting different organ systems (**Rahman and Isenberg, 2008**). Chemokines have been shown to orchestrate migration to and preferential sequestration of B and T cells in inflammatory lesions. The significance of chemokines in the pathogenesis of SLE and lupus nephritis is widely accepted (**Kulkarni and Anders, 2008**) and recent interventional studies could demonstrate the therapeutic benefit of pharmacologic chemokine and chemokine receptor blockade in experimental SLE (**Anders et al., 2004**).

The chemokine CXC ligand 13 protein (CXCL13), also known as B-cell-attracting chemokine-1 (BCA-1) or B-lymphocyte chemoattractant (BLC), is a CXC subtype member of the chemokine superfamily (**Gunn et al., 1998**).

CXCL13 is one of the most potent B-cell chemoattractants and is constitutively expressed in the B-cell follicles of secondary lymphoid organs, pleural and peritoneal cavities, and in ectopic lymphoid follicles within the synovial membrane of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Via its receptor CXCR5, expressed on follicular dendritic cells, CXCL13 is crucial for germinal centre formation (**Vissers et al., 2001**).

The role of CXCL13 is particularly interesting in the course of LN, since aberrant CXCL13 expression is sufficient to induce the formation of ectopic lymphoid tissues in non-lymphoid organs and thus could be responsible for the accumulation of inflammatory cells in the kidneys in SLE (**Ishikawa et al., 2001**).

Furthermore, it is believed that the presence of ectopic lymphoid tissues promotes the local activation of T and B cells leading to exacerbation of disease (**Segerer and Schlondorff, 2008**).

Recently, the expression profiles of 61 inflammatory molecules were characterized in the kidneys of NZB/W-F1 mice at different stages of LN. It was found that CXCL13 was one of only a few inflammatory markers that were expressed in the kidney at an early point of disease,

suggesting a possible pathogenic role for disease manifestation (**Schiffer et al., 2008**)..

Since kidney biopsy is still the gold standard for diagnosis of LN but bear potential complications, non-invasive tests to investigate kidney involvement are of great interest.

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim is to find whether serum levels of CXCL13

- (1) are elevated in patients with SLE,
- (2) correlate with disease activity,
- (3) indicate renal involvement in SLE patients.