

# **PROGRANULIN IN PATIENTS WITH IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA**

*Thesis*

Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree  
In Internal Medicine

*By*

**Maram Mahmoud Mahmoud Ahmed**  
(M.B.,B.Ch.)

*Supervised by*

**Prof. Dr. Mohamed Osman Azzazi**

Professor of Internal Medicine and Hematology  
Faculty of Medicine - Ain Shams University

**Prof. Dr. Hany Mohamed Abd-Allah Hegab**

Professor of Internal Medicine and Hematology  
Faculty of Medicine - Ain shams University

**Dr. Mary Gamal Naguib**

Lecturer of Internal Medicine and Hematology  
Faculty of Medicine - Ain shams University

Faculty of Medicine  
Ain Shams University  
2019

## List of Contents

| Title                                   | Page |
|---|------|
| ▪ List of Abbreviations.....            | I    |
| ▪ List of Tables.....                   | V    |
| ▪ List of Figures.....                  | VII  |
| ▪ Introduction.....                     | 1    |
| ▪ Aim of the Work.....                  | 3    |
| ▪ Review of Literature                  |      |
| - Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura ..... | 4    |
| - Progranulin.....                      | 42   |
| ▪ Subjects and Methods.....             | 62   |
| ▪ Results .....                         | 66   |
| ▪ Discussion .....                      | 75   |
| ▪ Summary.....                          | 79   |
| ▪ Conclusion .....                      | 81   |
| ▪ References.....                       | 82   |
| ▪ Arabic Summary.....                   | --   |

## List of Abbreviations

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>ADAMTS-7</b> ..... | A disintegrin and metalloproteinase with thrombospondin motifs |
| <b>ADCC</b> .....     | Antibody- dependent cell- mediated cytotoxicity                |
| <b>ALPS</b> .....     | Autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome                        |
| <b>AMR</b> .....      | Ashwell-Morrell receptor                                       |
| <b>ANA</b> .....      | Antinuclear antibody   |
| <b>ANCA</b> .....     | Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies                         |
| <b>APCs</b> .....     | Antigen presenting cells                                       |
| <b>APS</b> .....      | Antiphospholipid syndrome                                      |
| <b>ASH</b> .....      | The American Society of Hematology                             |
| <b>BMI</b> .....      | Body mass index  |
| <b>Bregs</b> .....    | B-regulatory cells   |
| <b>C2</b> .....       | Complement 2   |
| <b>CBC</b> .....      | Complete blood count   |
| <b>CD40</b> .....     | Cluster of differentiation                                     |
| <b>CI</b> .....       | Confidence interval  |
| <b>CLL</b> .....      | Chronic lymphocytic leukemia                                   |
| <b>COMP</b> .....     | Cartilage oligomeric matrix protein                            |
| <b>CpGODNs</b> .....  | CpG-Oligodeoxynucleotides                                      |
| <b>CRD2</b> .....     | Cysteine rich domain   |
| <b>CSA</b> .....      | Cyclosporine A   |
| <b>CVID</b> .....     | Common variable immune deficiency                              |
| <b>DAT</b> .....      | Direct antiglobulin test                                       |
| <b>DcR3</b> .....     | Decoy receptor 3   |
| <b>DCs</b> .....      | Dendritic cells  |
| <b>DM</b> .....       | Diabetes mellitus  |

## List of Abbreviations

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>DR3</b>        | .....Death receptor 3                  |
| <b>ELISA</b>      | .....Enzyme-Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay |
| <b>FcγRs</b>      | .....Fc gamma receptors                |
| <b>FLi1</b>       | .....Friend leukemia integration 1     |
| <b>FOXP3</b>      | .....Forkhead box protein p3           |
| <b>GEP</b>        | .....Granulin–epithelin precursor      |
| <b>GPIIb-IIIa</b> | .....Glycoprotein IIb-IIIa             |
| <b>GRN</b>        | .....Granulin                          |
| <b>H pylori</b>   | .....Helicobacter pylori               |
| <b>HCC</b>        | .....Hepatocellular carcinoma          |
| <b>HCV</b>        | .....Hepatitis C                       |
| <b>HDMP</b>       | .....High-dose methylprednisolone      |
| <b>HE4</b>        | .....Human Epididymus Protien 4        |
| <b>HIV</b>        | .....Human immunodeficiency virus      |
| <b>HRQoL</b>      | .....Health-related quality of life    |
| <b>IBD</b>        | .....Inflammatory bowel disease        |
| <b>IgA</b>        | .....Immuoglobulin A                   |
| <b>IgM</b>        | .....Immunoglobulin M                  |
| <b>IQR</b>        | .....Inter-Quartile Range              |
| <b>ITP</b>        | .....Immune thrombocytopenic purpura   |
| <b>IVIG</b>       | .....Intravenous immunoglobulins       |
| <b>IWG</b>        | .....International Working Group       |
| <b>kDa</b>        | .....Kilodaltons                       |
| <b>LPS</b>        | .....Lipopolysaccharide                |
| <b>mAb</b>        | .....Monoclonal antibody               |
| <b>MAPK</b>       | .....Mitogen activated protein kinase  |
| <b>MKs</b>        | .....Megakaryocytes                    |

## List of Abbreviations

|              |       |  |
|--------------|-------|--|
| <b>MMP</b>   | ..... | Matrix metalloproteinase               |
| <b>MMR</b>   | ..... | Measles, mumps, and rubella            |
| <b>mRNA</b>  | ..... | Messenger Ribonucleic acid             |
| <b>NK</b>    | ..... | Cells natural killer cells             |
| <b>PAQ</b>   | ..... | Patient Assessment Questionnaire       |
| <b>PC</b>    | ..... | Plasma cells                           |
| <b>PCDGF</b> | ..... | PC-cell derived growth factor          |
| <b>PEPI</b>  | ..... | Proepithelin                           |
| <b>PKCb1</b> | ..... | Protein kinase C beta1                 |
| <b>PLT</b>   | ..... | Platelet                               |
| <b>PR3</b>   | ..... | Protinase 3                            |
| <b>PRGN</b>  | ..... | Progranulin                            |
| <b>PROs</b>  | ..... | patient-reported outcomes              |
| <b>PsA</b>   | ..... | Psoriatic arthritis                    |
| <b>PsC</b>   | ..... | Cutaneous psoriasis                    |
| <b>pSS</b>   | ..... | Progressive Systemic sclerosis         |
| <b>QoL</b>   | ..... | Quality of life                        |
| <b>RA</b>    | ..... | Rheumatoid arthritis                   |
| <b>RES</b>   | ..... | Reticuloendothelial system             |
| <b>RR</b>    | ..... | Relative risk                          |
| <b>SCID</b>  | ..... | Severe combined immunodeficiency       |
| <b>SD</b>    | ..... | Standard deviation                     |
| <b>SF-36</b> | ..... | The 36-item Short-Form Health Survey   |
| <b>SLE</b>   | ..... | Systemic lupus erythematosus           |
| <b>SNP</b>   | ..... | Single Nucleotide Polymorphism         |
| <b>SPSS</b>  | ..... | Statistical package for social science |

## List of Abbreviations

|                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>SS</b> .....                      | Systemic sclerosis              |
| <b>TE</b> .....                      | thromboembolism                 |
| <b>TG</b> .....                      | Triglycerides                   |
| <b>Th1/Th2</b> .....                 | T-helper cells                  |
| <b>TL1A</b> .....                    | TNF-like ligand 1A              |
| <b>TLR9</b> .....                    | Toll-like receptor 9            |
| <b>TNF-<math>\alpha</math></b> ..... | Tumor necrosis factor alpha     |
| <b>TPO</b> .....                     | Thrombopoietin                  |
| <b>TPO-RA</b> .....                  | Thrombopoietin receptor agonist |
| <b>TRAs</b> .....                    | Thrombopoietin receptor agonist |
| <b>Tregs</b> .....                   | T regulatory cells              |
| <b>Vs</b> .....                      | Versu                           |
| <b>WT</b> .....                      | Wild type                       |

## List of Tables

| Table No.          | Title   | Page |
|--------------------|---|------|
| <b>Table (1):</b>  | Age among cases and control .....   | 66   |
| <b>Table (2):</b>  | Sex distribution in cases and control...  | 67   |
| <b>Table (3):</b>  | Study patients' classification<br>according to platelet count .....                       | 68   |
| <b>Table (4):</b>  | Platelet range among study patients ....  | 69   |
| <b>Table (5):</b>  | Study patients' classification<br>according to response to treatment.....                 | 69   |
| <b>Table (6):</b>  | Study patients' classification<br>according to the course of ITP.....                     | 70   |
| <b>Table (7):</b>  | Progranulin ranges in cases and<br>control .....  | 71   |
| <b>Table (8):</b>  | Correlations between patients' ages<br>and progranulin .....                              | 72   |
| <b>Table (9):</b>  | Correlations between patients' sexes<br>and progranulin .....                             | 72   |
| <b>Table (10):</b> | Correlations between platelet count<br>and progranulin .....                              | 72   |
| <b>Table (11):</b> | Correlations between platelets mean<br>range and progranulin.....                         | 73   |
| <b>Table (12):</b> | Correlation between cases and<br>progranulin as regard response to<br>treatment.....      | 73   |
| <b>Table (13):</b> | Correlation between cases and<br>progranulin as regard the course of<br>the disease ..... | 74   |

### **List of Tables (Continued)**

| <b>Table No.</b>   | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Page</b> |
|--------------------|---|-------------|
| <b>Table (14):</b> | ROC curve between study and control as regard Progranulin ..... | 74          |

## List of Figures

| Figure No.        | Title  | Page |
|-------------------|--|------|
| <b>Fig. (1):</b>  | Estimated fraction of the various forms of secondary ITP based on clinical experience of the authors ..... | 7    |
| <b>Fig. (2):</b>  | Potential pathways that contribute to the immunopathogenesis of ITP.....                                   | 12   |
| <b>Fig. (3):</b>  | Anti- inflammatory mechanisms of a recombinant IgG1 Fc hexamer.....  | 15   |
| <b>Fig. (4):</b>  | Disturbance of the platelet life cycle in immune thrombocytopenia.....                                     | 17   |
| <b>Fig. (5):</b>  | Selection of patients for second-line treatment of ITP .....   | 27   |
| <b>Fig. (6):</b>  | Pathogenesis of immune thrombocytopenia and therapeutic mechanisms of current treatments .....             | 37   |
| <b>Fig. (7):</b>  | The protein and gene structure of a mammalian progranulin.....   | 44   |
| <b>Fig. (8):</b>  | Intracellular trafficking of progranulin and its role in lysosome biogenesis and function .....            | 46   |
| <b>Fig. (9):</b>  | Progranulin deficiency disrupts glia-neuron homeostasis and promotes neurodegeneration during ageing ..... | 51   |
| <b>Fig. (10):</b> | PGRN's functions in autoimmune diseases .....  | 56   |
| <b>Fig. (11):</b> | Age among cases and control .....  | 66   |
| <b>Fig. (12):</b> | Sex distribution in cases and control...   | 67   |

## List of Figures (Continued)

| Figure No.        | Title  | Page |
|-------------------|--|------|
| <b>Fig. (13):</b> | Study patients' classification according to platelet count .....       | 68   |
| <b>Fig. (14):</b> | Study patients' classification according to response to treatment..... | 69   |
| <b>Fig. (15):</b> | Study patients' classification according to the course of ITP.....     | 70   |
| <b>Fig. (16):</b> | Progranulin range in cases and control .....                           | 71   |
| <b>Fig. (17):</b> | ROC curve between study and control .....                              | 74   |

## **ABSTRACT:**

**Background:** Immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) is an idiopathic, autoimmune disorder characterized by low platelet count. The triggering event for ITP is unknown, but continued research is providing new insights into the underlying immunopathogenic processes as well as the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in megakaryocytopoiesis and platelet turnover.

Progranulin (PGRN) is emerging as an important immune regulator involved in a variety of autoimmune disorders. However, its role in immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) remains unclear.

In our study Progranulin was significantly elevated in ITP patients.

**Aim:** To investigate the relationship between Progranulin plasma level and Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura.

**Patients and Methods:** The study included 30 patients aged 20-60 years old with Immune thrombocytopenic purpura. The patients were collected from The Hematology Outpatient Clinic – Ain-Shams University Hospitals.

**Results:** Our results showed that 20 patients out of the study group (66.67%) while only 8 patients (26.67%) of the control group had high serum level of progranulin, which is highly significant (p-value = 0.002)

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Our study revealed that the progranulin is a promising regulator involved in the pathogenesis of ITP and provided a potetial strategy for updating the management of ITP.

**Keywords:** ITP, Progranulin, platelets, autoimmune

## **INTRODUCTION**

Immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) is defined as an idiopathic, autoimmune disease characterized by low platelet count ( $< 100 \times 10^9/\text{L}$ ) with a risk of mucocutaneous bleeding. ITP is a fairly common disorder in adults (5.8-6.6 in 100,000/year) and is thought to be caused by autoantibodies target the platelets leading to their premature sequestration (*Cines and Blanchette, 2002; Cooper and Bussel, 2006*). T cell mediated immunity could also be responsible for premature platelet destruction (*Coopamah et al., 2003; Olsson et al., 2003*).

Immune thrombocytopaenic purpura is common in patients with immunodeficiency diseases, most commonly in B-cell disorders, including Common Variable Immunodeficiency (*Cunningham-Rundles and Bodian, 1999*), secondary hypogammaglobulinaemia, selective IgA deficiency (*Khalifa et al., 1976*), autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome (ALPS) and CD40 ligand deficiency (hyper-IgM syndrome). Yet, the association between ITP and immunodeficiency is also likely to be related to T-cell dysregulation (*Arkwright et al., 2002*).

Progranulin (PRGN), found in human blood, urine, expressed widely in adipose tissue and to be one of the adipokines that involved in the development of insulin resistance (*Matsubara et al., 2012 and Martens et al., 2012*). It is known to play an important role in a variety of

## ***-Introduction-***

---

physiologic and pathological processes, including wound healing, inflammation response, neurotrophic factor and host defense (*Tang et al., 2011*).

The association between PGRN levels and systemic inflammation and autoimmunity has been reported, for example, serum levels of PGRN were elevated in systemic lupus erythematosus and related with disease activity (*Qiu et al., 2013; Yamamoto et al., 2014*). Auto-antibodies against PGRN have also been reported in several autoimmune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and inflammatory bowel disease, and such antibodies promoted a proinflammatory environment in a subdivision of patients (*Thurner et al., 2013*). Moreover, PGRN was found to protect Tregs from a negative regulation by TNF- $\alpha$ . However, the direct regulation of PGRN on Tregs has not been reported (*Thurner et al., 2014; Wei et al., 2014*).

A recent study highlighted the potential role of progranulin in the pathogenesis of ITP and provided a potential strategy for management of ITP (*Yu et al., 2018*).

## **AIM OF THE WORK**

This thesis is designed to evaluate the relationship between Progranulin plasma level and Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura.

## **IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA**

### **DEFINITION**

Idiopathic or immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) is an autoimmune-mediated acquired bleeding disorder of adults and children. It is characterized by destruction of platelets caused by anti-platelet antibodies. However, the mechanisms that trigger the development of platelet auto-antibodies remain poorly understood (*Neunert, 2013*).

The normal platelet count in healthy individuals is between  $(150-450 \times 10^9/L)$  while in ITP platelet count is characteristically  $(<100 \times 10^9/L)$ . Traditionally ITP has been classified as: acute with sudden onset lasting less than 6 months, chronic persisting more than 6 months; or refractory where persistently low platelet counts remain despite appropriate treatment or splenectomy. In 2009, a new nomenclature for the phases of ITP based on time from diagnosis was proposed as follows; newly diagnosed ITP (within 3 months of diagnosis, persistent ITP (between 3 - 12 months of diagnosis), and chronic ITP (longer than 12 months of diagnosis) (*Rodeghiero et al., 2009*).

ITP is typically a diagnosis of exclusion, made by clinicians after ruling out other possible etiologies. It can be