

Serum Clusterin Level in Patients with Pityriasis Versicolor

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Abstract

Background: Pityriasis versicolor is a moderate, persistent, superficial skin illness caused by *Malassezia furfur* and/or other *Malassezia* species. The lesions are characterised by the development of distinct, serpentine, hyper- or hypopigmented macules, often on the chest, upper back, arms, and belly. Clusterin [apolipoprotein J] is a heterodimeric, disulfide-linked, 75-80kDa protein related with apoptosis and cellular debris clearance. Clusterin is encoded on human chromosome 8 by the CLU gene. CLU is a molecular chaperone that helps secreted proteins fold. It has a function in a variety of clinical ailments associated with oxidative stress, such as inflammatory disorders, neurological diseases, and malignant situations. This paper intended to determine the serum concentration of CLU in Pityriasis versicolor patients and its potential significance in the disease's development.

Keywords: Serum Clusterin; Pityriasis and Versicolor.

1. Introduction

Malassezia furfur and/or other *Malassezia* species are the underlying cause of pityriasis versicolor [1], a mild-to-moderate, long-lasting, superficial skin disease.

In order to multiply and change from the commensal yeast form to the mycelial phase (pseudofilamentous parasitic form), the species *Malassezia*, which is part of the normal microflora of the skin, needs certain predisposing components [2].

The lesions manifest as discrete, serpentine, hyper- or hypopigmented macules, most often on the chest, upper back, arms, and abdomen. While scaling, inflammation, and irritation are mild because to the low host response, these lesions may grow and consolidate [3].

For growth, the medium must include lipid, and *M. furfur* is a yeast/fungus that requires lipid. Scratches of the infected skin treated with 10% potassium hydroxide (KOH) or stained with lactophenol cotton blue stain may be examined under the microscope to confirm the clinical diagnosis. There have round cells and short, branching hyphae [4].

Under a microscope, the fungus appears as short, thick hyphae with a large number of spores of varying sizes (a spaghetti and meatball appearance) [5].

Clusterin (also known as apolipoprotein J) is a heterodimeric, disulfide-linked, 75-80kDa protein involved in apoptosis and the elimination of cellular debris. The CLU gene (located on human chromosome 8) provides the genetic blueprint for clusterin. One kind of molecular chaperone, CLU, aids in the folding of proteins that are then secreted. It has a role in inflammatory disorders, neurological diseases, and cancer. [6].

The protein clusterin is found in HDL particles. Secretory CLU overexpression protects cells against apoptosis caused by cellular stress, including radiation and chemotherapy [7].

The purpose of this research is to investigate the relationship between serum CLU levels and the progression of Pityriasis versicolor.

The Pityriasis Versicolor

Synonymous with "introduction" and "synonymous"

Tineaflave, tineaversicolor, chromophytosis, dermatomycosisfurfuracea, and pityriasisversicolor are all synonyms for PV. The term "ptyriasis" comes from the Greek word "ptyra," which means "abnormal growth," and the Latin word "versicolor," which means "multicoloured" [8].

Pityriasis versicolor, caused by the *Malassezia* genus, is a moderately frequent, benign superficial fungal infection of the stratum corneum characterised by solitary or confluent, hypopigmented or hyperpigmented, robust scaly macules or patches present over seborrheic areas. Formerly, this condition was incorrectly labelled as tinea, a name now reserved for dermatophytic infections [9].

• Epidemiology

Acne is more common in teenagers and young adults because their sebaceous glands produce more oil. Age-related differences in sebum secretion correlate with the number of yeast colonies in the stratum corneum. Those between the ages of 0 and 15 have a relatively low yeast colonisation of the skin (between 5 and 15 percent), whereas those between the ages of 11 and 20 have a much higher yeast colonisation (56 to 90 percent). Hence, it is uncommon among the

elderly since sebaceous glands stop producing oil as we become older [10].

Race: The incidence of PV is similar in people of all ethnicities, however it is more common in those with darker skin tones [11].

Impacts are felt similarly by sexes. Prevalent sexuality is not a problem [12].

In tropical regions, PV is more common in the spring and summer when temperatures and humidity are at their peak. The incidence of infection is estimated to be between 35% and 40% in temperate zones, making it endemic and persistent there. In colder areas, the percentage impacted may be as low as 1% [10].

Given the occurrence of a positive family history among blood relations, it has been hypothesised that there is a genetically determined host susceptibility component in pityriasis versicolor. There might be conjugal incidents [13].

Hyperhidrosis, oral contraceptive use, malnutrition, pregnancy, skin occlusion, and prolonged systemic corticosteroid use are additional risk factors for PV. Oral contraceptive usage has been linked to stunted growth and pulmonary vascular disease (PV), however the evidence for this link is scant. Despite widespread acceptance of hyperhidrosis as a risk factor for PV [14], there is some evidence to suggest that this is not always the case. The prevalence of PV has not been shown to differ significantly between pregnant women and the general population [15], despite the fact that skin colonisation by *Malassezia* yeasts is greater in the third trimester and postpartum period.

Seldom have people who have been using steroids for a long time been studied for Pityriasis versicolor. Corticosteroid patients showed a 16% increased risk of developing PV. Steroids do not hinder the growth of yeast strains in the lab. In addition, topical glucocorticoids may cause a negative nitrogen balance and a reduction in pH when applied to the skin. Possible growth suppression of the fungus as a result of this [16].

Despite the belief that PV is brought on by the patients' lack of grooming, studies have been unable to find a connection between the two [17, 18].

Pathogenesis

There is still much we don't know about what causes PV and how to treat it. Despite this, many studies on PV development agree that *Malassezia* skin colonisation, sebum production, and individual vulnerability are all intertwined in the disease's progression. Infection with PV is triggered by *Malassezia*, a genus of lipophilic dimorphic yeasts. These yeasts are part of the skin's microbiota and live in the stratum corneum (SC) [19].

Bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and fungi are just a few examples of the microorganisms that make up the skin flora. Adenoviruses and rotaviruses are examples of transitory viruses; they are discovered due to brief hand/body carriage after contamination or transmission events. *Malassezia*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Corynebacterium*, and *Demodex folliculorum*, to mention a few, are all examples of the local flora that are persistent and impossible to eradicate completely [20].

From an early age, microbes start colonising the skin. Most bacteria are harmless, commensal, or neutral, but others are pathogenic and may cause damage to the skin or the body in general [21]. These bacteria interact with the epithelial cells of a newborn, resulting in microbial colonisation and coexistence.

It is hypothesised that the relationship between species is of equal importance, and that the immune system of the host determines whether a microbe is commensal or pathogenic rather than the other way around. For survival, a microbe must compete with other germs in the normal flora for limited resources. This is done in an effort to keep the skin's flora stable and to counteract the effects of accelerated changes in social organisation. This technique also serves to prevent the spread of disease-causing bacteria [21].

Papillary villus (PV) and stratum corneum (SC) (PV)

The SC, when in good health, inhibits water loss from the skin and the body and acts as a barrier against pathogenic bacteria, damaging irradiation, and potentially toxic xenobiotics [22].

An increase in transepidermal water loss (TEWL) and a significant reduction in skin moisture have both been linked to exposure to UV radiation [23].

These destabilising mechanisms likely make the skin surface of PV lesions more pathologically vulnerable. This may be seen in a phenomenon known as "evoked scale," or "Zeliri's sign." When a PV lesion is stretched or scraped, the scales become more visible, suggesting the existence of this sign. There are a number of hypotheses [24] about the precise pathogenetic mechanism by which *Malassezia* contributes to this feature of PV.

Pathology of malignant pleural neoplasms

Skin samples taken from people with PV may be stained with hematoxylin and eosin or PAS to study the histology of the disease. Histological examination indicates moderate hyperkeratosis, characterised by acanthosis, vacuolization of epidermal cells, and a "basket weave" stratum corneum. The base layer has increased or normal pigmentation. A condition known as melanin incontinence [25] may manifest itself very seldom.

The Role of Malassezia in Skin Health

Malassezia is normally found on the skin of healthy people, and Djawad et al. (2020) conducted a clinical study to determine its distribution across 20 sites on healthy skin all over the body. Sebum may be collected from oily areas of skin, such as the chest, back, and scalp.

Several species of Malassezia found on healthy human skin Comparing the numbers of colonies isolated from healthy individuals with those from patients with PV, seborrheic dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, and psoriasis revealed that *M. restricta* predominated on the scalp, *M. sympodialis* on the trunk, and *M. globosa* was widely and equally distributed in all seborrheic areas. The numbers were similar with PV patients but significantly lower in seborrheic dermatitis, AD,

The first studies to identify *M. globosa* as the most common Malassezia species in PV lesions were undertaken in Spain by Chebil et al. [10]. Aspiroz et al. [27] discovered that *M. globosa* strains produce more lipase and esterase than other species of the genus, which may explain the greater degree of pathogenicity associated with this species on human skin and may also support its postulated participation in the aetiology of PV. Nevertheless, Pedrosa et al. [28] found that *M. sympodialis* predominated in Canada despite using a very different culture medium and collection procedures than the previously listed authors.

Distinctive features of PV lesions [10] Distinct, scaly, dyspigmented, uneven macules are typical of PV lesions. A single individual might have either hypopigmented or hyperpigmented lesions. These hyperpigmented lesions might be any colour from pink to tan to dark brown or black [29].

Chest, face, and back are frequent sites of involvement because to the high concentration of sebaceous glands there; flexural involvement of PV is unusual [30]. Macular with dyspigmented areas; follicular with multiple hypopigmented macules surrounding hair follicles; confluent with multiple macules arranged very closely and in an irregular pattern; guttate with tear-drop-shaped macules; these are the most common morphological patterns of PV lesions [31, 32].

There have also been reports of rare and peculiar PV lesions. There is also tinea versicolor inversion, in which the classic PV lesions are seen other than in the axillae, groyne, or perineum. The dermatophyte infection, erythema, and seborrheic dermatitis will be distinguished from this form of PV [30].

Atrophic, red, and symptom-free Pityriasis versicolor atrophicans lesions. Little teleangiectasia may be seen on the surface of certain lesions. PV atrophicans has a similar topography to regular PV and responds well to

antifungal therapy. This kind of PV has a wide differential diagnosis, including anetoderma, acne scars, and macular atrophy. It is impossible to make a diagnosis without histology [32].

In the rare form of PV known as blaschkoidpityriasisversicolor [33], the lesions are organised in a grid pattern, named after the dermatologist who first identified them.

Lesions in pityriasis versicolor rubra are red in colour and have a teleangiectasia pattern that may be seen with a capillaroscope. Skin lesions tend to crop up in oily places on the body and usually react well to antifungal treatment [34].

A harbinger of the Besnier Coup D'ongle: The coup d'ongle of Besnier, dubbed by Balzer as le signe du copeau (shaving, as of wood), or "Hobelspanphanomen" in German, is the single main symptom associated with the diagnosis of tinea versicolor. The term "scratch sign" describes another name for it. Sometimes the spots are smooth, sometimes they are powdery and manifestly branny, but this distinguishing mark is not present in all stages of the parasite's evolution, and its diagnostic value is secondary; what is constant is the alteration in the consistency of the superficial horny layer of the epidermis, which, infiltrated with the microsporm (Malassezia), is easily crumpled and detached either by the stroke of the curette, or more pliable means." The desquamative lamella, which is almost pathognomic [35], may be easily formed by a fairly vigorous scratch of the nail and does not need reaching the apex of the papillae or causing even the slightest quantity of blood.

The Symbol of Zireli Several perifollicular macular lesions with modest scaling are characteristic of pityriasis versicolor. The scaling of lesions may be more easily seen if the affected skin is stretched. As such, it has been given the name "Zireli's sign" [36].

PV Analysis

In most cases, a clinical diagnosis of pityriasis versicolor is made. Investigations as simple as a potassium hydroxide mount may be performed when a clinical suspicion occurs. Besides serving academic and epidemiological purposes, PV cultures are also used to verify unusual PV symptoms. Under Wood's light, the characteristic fluorescence of pityriasisvesicolor allows for its diagnosis [37].

The light of Wood.

assembly of skin scrapings

Method of using Scotch tape.

Eyeballing using a microscope right up close

The KOH (potassium hydroxide) hill

Changes made to the KOH mounting system [38].

If clarity is an issue, a cleaning agent like dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) might be used into

the mix. Methylene blue may be used as a fungus-identification tool. With the use of Albert's stain, yeast cells and hyphae may be easily distinguished from the keratinocyte background. Add KOH to Parker Quink's blue or black ink to make Chicago sky blue ink 6b stand out more.

Discoloration of calcofluor white (CFW).

Detectable using a microscope.

Needle biopsies

Culture Developmental necessities.

The cultural media.

The following media [13] is used for isolating *Malassezia* species:

Sabouraud Actidione and olive oil layered on top of dextrose agar.

Dixon's agar, modified

Medium Notman and Leeming

Agar (GYPS)

A minimal medium consisting of a lipid supply and L- tryptophan is employed for *M. furfur*, which produces diffuse brown coloration. The *Malassezia* species are normal commensal flora found on human skin. Hence, cycloheximide and chloramphenicol must be added to the culture media.

Dixon's Agar colony morphology changed [10]

PV Treatment and Management

Clinical and mycological recovery are the goals of PV treatment. Mycological cure is achieved when the mycelial state of the causative yeast *Malassezia* is no longer identifiable in the lesions [39]. Clinical cure is the disappearance of scaling and dyspigmented lesions.

As a result, their skin's natural flora has returned to normal. These symptoms have nothing to do with any kind of sickness. Since yeasts may remain on the skin's surface for weeks after cell death and the reversal of pigmentation could take weeks, the appearance of no response may persist for a while after treatment has ended [40].

PV may be treated locally or systemically. Almost all currently available medications are not designed specifically to treat PV, but may be used to treat a variety of superficial dermatomycoses caused by *Malassezia* and other fungi. There are minimal risks associated with these therapies, and some of them are even affordable. Nonetheless, treatment [41] may be affected by the illness's recurrence and patient compliance with medication.

Systemic treatment.

A PV herbal treatment.

The PV prophylaxis.

Clusterin Clusterin (CLU) is a heterodimeric glycoprotein with a molecular weight of about 80 kDa. It may be found in high concentrations in many body fluids, such as CSF, breast milk, blood, urine, and sperm. CLU was initially

identified in testicular fluid from rams and was named for its ability to encourage sertoli cell clustering [42].

There are several names for clusterin, including apolipoprotein J (ApoJ), complement lysis inhibitor (CLI), sulphated glycoprotein 2 (SGP-2), testosterone-repressed prostate message 2 (TRPM2), and secreted protein 40,40. (SP-40,40). The many physiological functions and widespread expression of CLU have resulted in a plethora of names for this protein [43].

Exocrine Clusterin (sCLU) sCLU, or secretory clusterin, is an 80-kDa glycosylated protein made up of two chains, -clusterin (-Clu) and -clusterin (-Clu), that are linked by five disulfide links (-Clu). Its expression is widespread, and it may be found in a wide variety of tissues, organs, and other locations throughout the body [44].

From the whole CLU mRNA, translation occurs at the first AUG codon, resulting in a 60 kDa sCLU precursor protein. This protein is delivered to the ER via a leader peptide (ER). The 60-kDa polypeptide undergoes processing, cleavage at its a/b site, and extensive glycosylation as it moves from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) to the Golgi. An 80 kDa protein is synthesised, with its polypeptides linked together through five disulphide bonds [45].

Atomic Clustering (nCLU)

After being translated into an inactive 49 kDa form, the nuclear form is post-translationally converted to an active 55 kDa form that accumulates in the nucleus and causes cell death [46].

Roles of clusterin in the body's physiological processes

There is evidence that CLU, a protein, plays a role in both cell death and survival [47].

Clusterin functions as a chaperone protein in a wide variety of bodily and control mechanisms. Amyloid- (A) peptide binding and lipid metabolism are two of the processes [48] suspected to contribute to Alzheimer's disease (AD).

By attaching to unfolded proteins, cellular debris, and immunological complexes, CLU helps cleanse the body of potentially harmful substances by preventing their uptake by healthy cells. There are several similarities between CLU and heat-shock proteins [49], including the capacity to interact with partially folded, stressed proteins and a wide range of partner molecules.

How that Secretory Clusterin Uses to Help Its Organisms Live

Both Clusterin and Ku70 The DNA repair factor Ku70 regulates apoptosis by interacting with the apoptotic protein Bax in the nucleus. Ku70 acetylation triggers Bax secretion and Bax-dependent cell death. Consequently, blocking

HDAC6, which deacetylates Ku70, or increasing Ku70 acetylation by dissociating Bax from Ku70 increases cell death. In order to trigger caspase-dependent cell death, acetylated Ku70 must first release Bax, which then translocates to the mitochondria and triggers the release of cytochrome c [50].

A greater quantity of sCLU may promote carcinogenesis by interfering with Bax's proapoptotic activities [51]. sCLU stabilises the link between Ku70 and the apoptotic protein Bax, preventing Bax from accessing the mitochondrial outer membrane and exerting its proapoptotic activity.

Loss of secreted clusterin and p53 causes mitochondrial dysfunction and apoptosis [52] by activating p53 and altering the ratio of proapoptotic to antiapoptotic Bcl-2 family members.

The clusterin and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase/protein kinase B signalling pathway.

One further method via which sCLU promotes cell survival is its ability to elevate activity in the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K)/protein kinase B (AKT) pathway. Cell proliferation, survival, growth, and motility are all regulated by the PI3K/AKT signalling system [53], and disruption of this pathway is associated with carcinogenesis.

MMP-9 and Clusterin They are released by keratinocytes and dermal fibroblasts in response to oxidative stress, ultraviolet light, and cytokines [55].

Photoaging is caused in part by matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), which tear down proteins in the skin's extracellular matrix (ECM), including collagen, fibronectin, elastin, and proteoglycans [56]. The foundation membrane of the epidermis is responsible for the adhesion between the epidermis and the dermis, which is crucial for the health of the epidermis. It has a pivotal role in controlling epidermal differentiation. Clearance of MMP-9 from extracellular compartments may be aided by CLU proteins, which may also restrict MMP-9 transcription, secretion, activation (processing), and/or activity [57].

Clustering of nucleons (a pro-death protein)

On the other hand, nCLU communicates with Bcl-XL through an unproven Bcl-2 homology 3 (BH3) domain. After Bcl-XL is broken down, it releases Bax, which triggers apoptosis by activating caspase-3, releasing cytochrome c from mitochondria, and ultimately triggering cell death. [52].

oxygen radicals and the control of CLU expression

The CLU gene acts as a very sensitive biosensor, particularly to free radical derivatives, to both exogenous and endogenous stress. Human

cells were shown to be more susceptible to CLU when exposed to ionising radiation, proteotoxic stress, various oxidants, UVB, and heavy metals [58].

Human epidermoid cancer cells were protected from H₂O₂, superoxide anion, hyperoxia, and UVA by CLU, and normal human fibroblasts were shielded from oxidant- or UVB-induced cytotoxicity. Lung fibroblasts were shielded from cigarette smoke oxidants, and human retinal cells were protected from free radical damage or in vitro ischemia. Relationship between clusterin and skin problems

Sagging skin caused by elastosis

CLU has close linkages to the chaperone-like effect of altered elastic fibres in aged human skin [58]. Human fibroblasts exposed to UVB on many occasions showed a dramatic rise in CLU expression, leading researchers to conclude that this gene served to shield the cells from the oxidant- or UVB-induced cytotoxicity that had plagued them before [60].

Melanogenesis

Growing research suggests that fibroblasts emit a cocktail of chemicals that stimulate melanogenesis. In contrast, the expression of the well-known CLU receptors transforming growth factor-β1 type I and type II by melanocytes hints to the possibility of CLU-mediated paracrine interaction between fibroblasts and melanocytes. Enhancement of melanogenesis in melanocytes was consistently linked to downregulation of CLU in fibroblasts [61].

Primary human dermal microvascular endothelial cells (HDMEC) have been demonstrated in recent studies to secrete large amounts of clusterin, a key component contributing to the endothelial cells' inhibitory action on melanogenesis. Melanocytes responded to HDMEC-derived clusterin by decreasing tyrosinase synthesis through downregulating MITF. The researchers also found that HDMECs, not fibroblasts, produce the vast majority of clusterin. Paracrine cross-talk between endothelial cells and melanocytes through clusterin suppresses pigmentation, as shown by these studies. For this reason, clusterin has been proposed as a therapeutic target for the creation of skin-lightening remedies for hyperpigmentation [61].

Clusterin, a characteristic of systemic anaplastic large cell lymphomas, may be expressed by C-ALCL tumours of the skin. Around 30% of desmoplastic melanomas (DM) show clusterin expression [62].

Tissue samples showed that CLU expression was low in nevi but high in both primary melanoma and melanoma metastases, as reported by Cheimonidi et al. [63]. There was a correlation between CLU overexpression and resistance to

therapy, or increased melanoma cell survival despite the presence of cytotoxic drugs. Drug resistance was significantly reduced by antisense oligonucleotides targeting the mRNA of CLU [44].

tumorigenesis and the role of CLU: CLU's capacity to minimise proteome damage and indirectly prevent tumour formation suggests a tumour suppressive function in the early stages of cancer. Nevertheless, CLU may emerge as a potent oncogene in advanced neoplasia and/or metastasis since it provides a substantial survival advantage to tumour cells [64].

CLU showed a biphasic activity in skin carcinogenesis, functioning as a tumour suppressor in the early stages of carcinogenesis and an enhancer of the malignant phenotype in the later stages. Yet, the existence of the two isoforms may explain why nCLU is downregulated and sCLU is upregulated when a tumour progresses towards high-grade and metastatic carcinoma [65]. This suggests that CLU's role in tumour growth may be linked to a pattern shift in its isoform productions.

sCLU serves several roles associated to tumours, the most important of which is its participation in apoptosis. In clear cell renal carcinoma (CCRC), sCLU increases aggressive behaviour via regulating ERK 1/2 signalling and matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-9 expression [7].

AGA with a CLU within it.

Most, if not all, age-related illnesses that have been linked to the CLU gene are caused by oxidative stress. This is because the CLU gene is a sensitive biosensor of environmental stressors. As CLU's main purpose in these diseases is to counteract oxidative and proteotoxic stress, this is its focus. By interacting with BAX, CLU inhibits cell apoptosis and promotes cell survival through activation of the Akt and NF- κ B pathways [66]. Many biochemical and experimental methods have been used to investigate the signalling mechanisms that regulate the cytoprotective effects of CLU.

High-Density Lipoprotein Associated with Clusterin

One of HDL's putative antiatherogenic properties is its capacity to prevent the death of endothelial cells [67].

By preventing the growth of vascular smooth muscle cells and shielding endothelial cells, Basic et al. [68] showed that CLU protects against neointimal hyperplasia. Cholesterol export from macrophage-foam cells is boosted by CLU [69], which may also have a protective impact.

The secreted form of CLU (sCLU) is hypothesised to be present in HDL-cholesterol. Differential activation of endothelial antiapoptotic and proapoptotic signalling pathways relies on changes in HDL-associated clusterin and apoC-III

[70]. When apoptosis is induced, clusterin in healthy people increases PI3K/Akt activation, leading to more antiapoptotic Bcl-xL being produced. HDL-associated clusterin levels are reduced in CAD. CLU is shown to have the same HDL-like properties, including anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antiatherogenic effects [71]. Coronary artery disease is abbreviated as CAD.

Research shows that those with diabetes, obesity, or the metabolic syndrome, as well as those with symptomatic coronary disease, had lower amounts of sCLU in their HDLs. HDLs' antiapoptotic effect is hindered in part by their reduced sCLU concentration in the later state [72].

Interactions between clusterin and inflammatory mechanisms

Other other studies have shown correlations between clusterin and further inflammatory procedures. There is, therefore, a direct link between [73] and the severity of asthma in children.

Overexpression of clusterin and IL6 have been shown to be colocalized in the wasting muscle tissues of people with osteoporosis. Together with the findings that clusterin silencing reduces the expression of CX3CR1 (a receptor highly expressed on Th1 activated T cells that, by interacting with its ligand, induces chemotaxis of circulating monocytes and selective recruitment of Th1 lymphocytes responsible for chronic inflammatory processes), these data suggest that clusterin silencing is involved in the inflammatory myoblast degeneration that occurs in this pathology.

Interactions between clusterin and the immune system

Studying CLU expression, researchers found that DC express a lot of it, and that its expression rose by more than 30 times as DCs matured. Given the importance of these cells to both innate and adaptive immunity and the multiple processes in which DC are involved, understanding the interactions between CLU and DC is crucial [75].

To put it simply, DC are the most effective antigen-presenting cells (APC). They help initiate immunisation by activating naïve T cells, and they play a special role in sustaining local immune responses. TLRs, Fc receptors, and lectins are only a few of the numerous receptor types expressed by DC. In this way, FcR connects humoral and cell-mediated immunity since it can recognise IgG and immune complexes containing IgG [76].

The balance between the activating FcRs I, IIa, and III and the inhibitory FcRIIb in the FcR system determines the final result of immune complex-mediated inflammation. Both activating and inhibitory FcR are expressed by immature DC, however this is reduced when DC reach full

maturity. [77] The balance between activating and inhibitory FcR has been shown to affect DC behaviour.

Sepsis, shock, and, in rare cases, a breakdown in tolerance leading to autoimmunity or malignancy, are the outcomes of an unchecked T helper-1 (Th-1) response. When the T helper 2 (Th-2) response is hyperactive, it causes asthma and fibrosis, but when the T helper 7 (Th-7) response is dominant, it may trigger an autoimmune response by releasing interleukin-17 (IL-17) [76]. Human Th-17 cells, in contrast to Th-1 cells, generated less CLU, and IL-17 serum levels were considerably greater in patients with lymphoproliferative illness compared to healthy controls [78].

A Complement Inhibitor Called CLU Over 30 serum and membrane proteins make up complement, and they play a role in both host defence and the development of autoimmune illness. Each step of the cascade is equipped with enzyme inhibitors to keep the whole process under supervision [79].

Soluble clusterin (sCLU) has been identified as a link to the complex of membrane attack (C5b9), the final molecular component that disturbs the membrane of pathogen or target cells [80].

By binding to the MAC, the complement regulation (CR) proteins CLU and vitronectin block cytolysis. Both MAC proteins are linked to circulating immune complexes in individuals with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Complement deficiency (particularly C1 and C4) leads to the development of SLE, which is a polygenic disease. It is intriguing that a lack of C4 components has also been observed in lichen planus [80].

Serum sCLU significantly decreased in SLE patients, which correlated adversely with disease activity. Ulcerative colitis, alopecia, proteinuria, anaemia, and a low platelet count were all associated with low sCLU levels. C3 and C4 levels and prednisone use were not linked with sCLU levels. [76] Antibody-mediated inflammation at sites of apoptosis in the presence of autoantigens is thought to be poorly controlled in sCLU deficient individuals.

Functional significance of clusterin in the NF- κ B pathway: Activation of nuclear factor kappa B (NF- κ B) is important in the progression of chronic inflammatory illnesses [81, 82]. NF- κ B is a key transcription factor that, after translocation to the nucleus, binds to promoter regions of different genes producing immunological and proinflammatory mediators.

Cell survival, cytokine production, and DNA synthesis are all controlled by the NF- κ B protein complex. The transcription factor NF- κ B has a role in cellular responses to many stimuli including

stress, cytokines, free radicals, heavy metals, UV irradiation, oxidised LDL, and bacterial or viral antigens. [82].

There are two isoforms of CLU, 1 and 2, and they have contrasting effects on apoptosis. Isoform 2 (sCLU, soluble clusterin) protects cells from apoptosis by inhibiting Bax actions on the mitochondrial membrane, and it also activates the PI3K pathway, modulates extracellular signal-regulated kinase 1/2 signalling and MMP-9 expression, increases angiogenesis, and modulates the NF- κ B pathway, among other protumor activities. Inflammation, radiation, excess free oxygen radicals, testosterone or oestrogen deprivation, etc. all cause cells to overexpress sCLU [7].

Intracellular forms of the protein were linked to several of CLU's stated activities, including NF- κ B signalling and apoptosis. In fact, it has been revealed that intracellular CLU may be crucial for the control of NF- κ B activity via its influence on the modulation of I kappa B (I κ B) expression, a particular inhibitor of the NF- κ B transcription factor, presumably through contact with relevant ubiquitin ligases [83].

Role of clusterin in programmed cell death: Cytotoxic chemotherapy and the lack of androgens or oestrogens are two stresses that may trigger apoptosis in cells, although CLU can protect them. CLU's cytoprotective effect may be explained by the fact that it acts as a chaperone [84, 85].

Elevated sCLU levels may promote cancer by interfering with Bax's proapoptotic activities [86]. CLU prevent cell death by stabilising the union between Klu70 and the apoptotic protein Bax, preventing Bax from reaching the mitochondrial outer membrane and exerting its proapoptotic activity.

Furthermore, the finding that sCLU prevents cell death caused by TNF [50] implies that it may function as an immune response suppressor.

A connection exists between clusterin and psoriasis.

Lesions on psoriatic skin had significantly decreased clusterin mRNA levels compared to healthy skin. Clusterin inhibits the proliferation of human KCs, and its gene expression is downregulated in psoriatic skin, where cell proliferation is excessive. Clusterin is a negative growth signal that regulates KC expansion, as seen below [87].

Problems with clusterin and collagen pathology

Systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients with severe digital ulcers and pulmonary arterial hypertension may benefit from CLU, according to the research of Yanaba et al. [88]. (PAH).

Persistent spontaneous urticaria and clusterin

Individuals with a positive autologous serum skin test have increased serum CLU levels, and this molecule has several roles, including regulating the complement system, blocking angiogenesis, and clearing bioactive cell debris. Patients with persistent spontaneous urticaria may use serum CLU as a predictor of antihistamine responsiveness [89].

The therapeutic potential of clusterin

There is now no doubt that CLU plays a significant role in the onset and development of human cancers. As a result, it may serve as a focus for the research and creation of cutting-edge cancer therapies [46].

Some evidence suggests that CLU-based medications are effective in treating atherosclerosis and peripheral neuropathies in animal models [90]. Breast cancer cells may acquire resistance to anti-oestrogen therapy in part by up-regulation of CLU; hence, down-regulation of CLU in conjunction with standard cancer treatments may assist battle tumours' capacity to dodge the cytotoxicity of anti-cancer medications. The translation start location for the CLU mRNA is located in exon 2, which is the target of the antisense oligonucleotide OGX-011 (21 bases).

In preclinical xenograft models of prostate, lung, renal cell, breast, and other cancers, OGX-011 or custirsen improved apoptotic rates by reducing expression of sCLU [65].

As CLU is a molecule with several putative functions, treatment approaches need to be thoroughly investigated to reduce the likelihood of unwanted side effects. Although it's feasible that inhibiting or amplifying certain aspects of CLU's activity may be therapeutically useful, doing so would have unavoidable and severe negative consequences for the organism as a whole. Microglia might be negatively impacted by CLU stimulation [91]. The pro-survival sCLU, for example, may be up-regulated to improve neuronal survival, protecting the brain against neuronal loss associated with AD.

The ratio of secreted to nuclear CLU isoform production has been postulated to alter during cancer progression. The suppression of nCLU's pro-apoptotic capabilities and the enhancement of sCLU's pro-survival activities suggest that this balance is necessary for cancer progression. A switch from CLU's pro-survival roles to its pro-apoptotic functions would occur if the nuclear version were expressed at a higher rate than the secreted form [92].

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