Abstract:

Title: Serum Calprotectin levels as a marker of disease activity in children with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common chronic rheumatic disorder of childhood and encompasses a complex group of disorders comprising several clinical entities with the common feature of arthritis. Calprotectin is a calcium- and zinc-binding protein that belongs to the S100 protein family and is released during the interaction of leucocytes with inflammatory activated endothelium at the sites of inflammation as occurs in JIA. We undertook this study to assess the usefulness of Calprotectin as a marker of disease activity in Indian children with JIA.

Objectives: To assess the usefulness of serum Calprotectin levels as a marker of disease activity in children with JIA.

Materials and methods: 121 children who fulfilled the International League of Associations For Rheumatology (ILAR) criteria for JIA were recruited into the study. Baseline demographic details were collected and Blood counts, ESR, CRP and Calprotectin levels were analyzed in all children after obtaining consent. Children were then divided into 2 groups based on disease activity as per Wallace criteria. Calprotectin levels were also analysed in 10 normal healthy children. Calprotectin levels were measured by using a “Human Calprotectin Kit” which works on the basis of sandwich-enzyme linked immune sorbent assay technology (ELISA).
Results: 121 children with JIA were recruited into the study, 63 had active disease and 58 had inactive disease. Systemic onset JIA constituted 42% of the study population and was the predominant disease subtype. Calprotectin levels were elevated in children with active disease compared to those with inactive disease. Mean Calprotectin value in active disease (3954ng/ml) was 2 fold higher than those with inactive disease (1899ng/ml) (p value <0.001) and 16 times higher than children who were normal healthy controls (mean of 233ng/ml). Area under curve for Calprotectin was 0.744. For a cut off value of 1760 ng/ml, Calprotectin had a sensitivity of 77% and specificity of 61% for assessment of disease activity in JIA.

Conclusion: Serum Calprotectin levels was found to be a good marker of disease activity in children with JIA. However, further studies which involve serial monitoring of Calprotectin levels in a study population will provide additional information about accuracy of these markers.

Keywords: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis, Calprotectin, disease activity.