Study of some immunological effects of methotrexate in people with rheumatoid arthritis

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to determine the effect of rheumatoid arthritis on some immunological criteria in women with rheumatoid arthritis at M arjan Specialist Hospital in Babil governate for the period from 20/10/2018 until 20/4/2019, when 90 samples of women aged between 25 to 55 years old into three groups: the first (30) women with rheumatoid arthritis Calming treatments. And the second (30) of women with rheumatoid arthritis who received methotrexate treatment. The third sample (30) included a sample of non-RA patients representing control.

5 mL of venous blood was withdrawn and placed in a test tube and then placed in a centrifuge to separate the serum and perform immunological tests (Inter Lockin 4, Inter Lockin 6)

Results showed a significant increase of $P < 0.05$ in the level of interleukin (4.6) in infected women compared to the control group.

We conclude from the study that the incidence of rheumatoid arthritis had a significant effect on the level of interleukins (6.4) in women, and was the highest difference in the group of women who use analgesics as a treatment.

The study showed that MTX had a significant effect in reducing measured parameter levels compared to control group

KEYWORDS

Rheumatoid arthritis, Interleukin

1. Introduction:

Arthritis is a common disease at present, a serious disease that develops rapidly and takes a variety of forms and can occur at any age for both sexes (Puttick, 2001). "This disease causes inflammation, pain and stiffness of various joints in the body, and leads to the movement stop of the patient to have a significant impact on the activities of the person who affects 75% of women (Lehtonen et al., 1994). There are different types of arthritis including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, osteoporosis, juvenile arthritis and acute arthritis (Bird et al., 2006).

Rheumatoid arthritis: Is an autoimmune disorder in the immune system that produces non-specialized antibodies that attack various organs of the body leading to inflammation of the synovial tissue around the joint and swollen (hypertrophy) of the cell and increases in the synovial fluid and urges the development of fibrous tissue in the synovial membrane and thus lead to the disease to damage the cartilage Hinge (Brink et al., 2015).

Rheumatoid arthritis is defined as multiple articular inflammation, which affects several joints and is similar to small joints. Hand and foot, which affect joints in the body and lead to arthritis, lead to functional disability of the patient who poses a risk to his life (Cohndola, 2006).

Rheumatoid arthritis affects about 2-1% of the population depending on the geographical distribution of the world (Arthritis foundation Malaysia, 2012). Several studies in different countries have shown the prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in large disparities among different populations, with a prevalence of 0.5-1% in Northern Europe and North America with an annual incidence of 20-50 new cases per 1,000,000 population (Alamanos and drosos, 2005).

In Iraq, its prevalence was 1%, which is similar to its prevalence in Europe and North America. The percentage observed in females to males is 1-3 (Al-Rawi et al., 1999). Rheumatoid arthritis patients use different types of treatments, DMARDS help reduce and relieve pain, inflammation and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSADS) and include a range of treatments used.

In the treatment of rheumatism, including Leflunomide, Sulfasalazine, hydroxychloroquin Glucocorticoids and Methotrexate (MTX), MTX is used extensively and even in the early stages of the disease and is the first treatment in the treatment of rheumatism, for the benefit of treatment compared with other treatments (de Jong et al., 2016)

Objective of the study:
In light of the above, the study was designed to determine the immunological effects caused by the use of MTX treatment in comparison with the analgesic treatments in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and the damage resulting from the use of this treatment. The criteria for achieving the study objectives: Determination of the concentration of interleukins (Interleukin 4, Interleukin 6)  

2. Materials and methods
2.1- Design of the study
The study was conducted at the Medical Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Center at Marjan Specialist Hospital, Babil Governorate for the period from 20/10/2018 to 20/4/2019. The study included the follow-up of 90 cases of women with rheumatoid arthritis diagnosed by the Specialized Rheumatoid Arthritis Committee Morjan after the confirmation of their health and they do not suffer from diseases of blood pressure, sugar and the group of healthy. The sample of the study was divided into two groups:
- The first group: the group of patients who take various analgesic treatments and included 30 women
- The second group: the group of patients taking methotrexate therapy (MTX) with 4 tablets per week, equivalent to 10 mg and included 30 women
The second group of healthy people: included 30 samples of women who did not suffer from any disease and have ranged in age from 25-55 years have been confirmed safety through the examination of the rheumatic factor RF as well as have been immunological tests for them

2. Interleukin-4 and interleukin-6 (IL-4) and IL-6
Serum Interleukins were measured to measure inflammation of RA patients using several analyzes prepared by Elabscience.

3-The statistical program (R program) was used to analyze the results by means of standard. (SD ± Mean ) The ANOVA test was also used to analyze differences between major groups. , Below a significant level of p<0.05 (Faraway, 2002).

3. Results and discussion:-
3.1 Effect of disease severity and treatment in some immunological standards for women with rheumatoid arthritis.

3.1.1Measurement of the level of interleukin 4
The results in Table 2-4 and Figure 1-4 showed a significant increase in P <0.05) in the interleukin-4 concentration (IL-4) for women with Group A rheumatoid arthritis who took various types of analgesics (125.42 ± 122.42) and Group B group Women taking methotrexate therapy (MTX) (849.5 ± 105.12 ) control group (312.4 ± 12.20). When comparing the groups between them, group A and those taking the analgesics showed the highest difference of P <0.05 with group B and control.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>mean ± S.D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>312.4 ± 12.20 c</td>
<td>IL-4</td>
<td>849.5 ± 105.12 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>229.1± 21.28 c</td>
<td>IL-6</td>
<td>481.9 ± 64.68 b</td>
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* The different small letters a, b, c means that there is a significant difference (p <0.05) between the groups.
*Group A is a group of women with rheumatoid arthritis who take palliative treatments.
*Group B is the group of women with rheumatoid arthritis who take methotrexate therapy
* Control control group
In his study, Karim and others showed a high concentration of interleukin 4A, indicating the extent of inflammation of the synovial tissue of the joint. IL-4 is a multifunctional cell that helps to grow cells and is considered an anti-inflammatory medium (Karim et al., 2005).

Studies have shown that IL-4 has effects on the Th1 / Th2 balance, which may have roles in the regulation of autoimmune diseases, as Th2 regulates cell proliferation and apoptosis and the expression of many genes in different cell types, including epithelial and pancreatic cells, (Elpek et al., 2007).

IL-4 may be due to other diseases, including asthma, as well as idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (ILD) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The Shen study shows that rheumatoid patients with ILD have high levels of IL-4. In the body's attempt to stop the abnormal response (Shen et al., 2013).

2.2 Measuring the level of interleukin 6

The results in Table 2-4 and Figure 1-4 showed a significant increase in $P < 0.05$ in the interleukin-6 concentration (IL-6) for women with Group A rheumatoid arthritis who took various types of analgesics (766.9 ± 76.67) and Group B group Women taking methotrexate (MTX) (481.9 ± 64.68) control group (229.1± 21.28). When comparing the groups between them, group A and those taking the analgesics showed the highest difference of $P < 0.05$ with group B and control.
In the results of his study in 2013, AL-Salih explained that the high level of the concentration of IL-6 in serum and synovial fluid taken from joints affected by rheumatoid arthritis may explain the emergence of inflammatory factors such as CRP and TNF - α through uncontrolled IL-6 hyperplasia in these patients.

Peter explained in his 2003 study that the large production of interleukin 6 in the affected joint by large macrophage cells plays a major role in the development of rheumatoid arthritis, increased severity of inflammation and joint destruction, and the restoration of damaged tissue and is consistent with (Falah ,2009).

IL-6 is known as cytokine, which acts as a factor that drives the final maturity of B cells to plasma cells and participates in many biological processes such as inhibition of T cells and induction of acute phase response (Chog & panahi, 2001). Other studies have suggested that IL-6 may play a role as a factor in genetic susceptibility to RA (Study, 2014).

Conclusions
Low level (IL-4-IL-6) in patients treated with MTX This indicates the role of treatment in reducing the rate of inflammation.

1. Low fat levels in patients treated with MTX compared with users of analgesics. This refers to the role of therapy in improving kidney and liver function.

The results showed that patients treated with analgesics were more likely to have complications than patients using MTX.
References


