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Research Article

**ANALYSIS OF ALLERGIC RHINITIS (AR) AS A COMMON
ALLERGY DISORDER IN ASTHMA PATIENTS**Dr Ali Zaman Tarar¹, Syed Muhammad Murtaza Ishaq¹, Dr Hira Afzal²¹MO at Punjab Institute of Mental Health, Lahore²THQ Hospital, Chishtian District Bahawalpur

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Abstract:

Objectives of the study: The main objective of the study is to analyze the role of Allergic rhinitis (AR) as a common allergy disorder in asthma patients. **Material and methods:** This cross sectional study was conducted at Punjab Institute of Mental Health, Lahore from January 2019 to October 2019. The data was collected from 50 patients of nose allergy. Blood sample was drawn for the analysis of serum IgE levels. Environmental and behavioral factors and medical history with a focus on allergies, including specific months when rhinitis symptoms without a cold occurred, were assessed at 9 time points by using face-to-face, paper, telephone, and online questionnaires. Specific IgE levels were measured at 9 time points. **Results:** The data was collected from 50 nose allergy patients. Symptom scores were higher in the rhinitis than in control group during all of the experiments ($P < .001$) and were significantly elevated in both groups 4, 24, and 48 hours after beginning the challenge compared with baseline. Total cell count was significantly elevated in both groups. Participants from both rich and poor backgrounds (grandparents and parents) had the same risk of AR as those from average-income families. **Conclusion:** It is concluded that there is a need of more studies for the clarification of role of AR as a immunological disorder in Pakistan. IgE-mediated nasal response but have some features in common.

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INTRODUCTION:

AR is a risk factor for asthma. Two recent studies provided convincing confirmation that AR is an independent risk factor for asthma onset. It is reported that patients with AR are at three times the risk of developing asthma compared with those without AR. In addition, a cross-sectional study of representative samples of young adults, who completed a detailed questionnaire and underwent lung function tests, bronchoprovocation challenge, IgE measurement and skin prick test, has been performed in Europe [1]. The results demonstrate and confirm that AR is a main risk factor for asthma onset. There is a close epidemiological link between AR and asthma, as reported by several surveys [2].

Asthma is also a heterogeneous disorder, and as Wenzel suggested, definitions of asthma are problematic because of its complexity, possibly reflecting a collection of different phenotypes. Most clinical definitions elaborate on the symptoms (eg, wheezing and difficulty breathing) of lung functions, of exacerbations and, often, of the response to medication (eg, high-dose corticosteroids). It is estimated that asthma affects 4% to 11% of the general population. Evidence in Canada also suggests that the symptoms of patients with asthma continue to be inadequately controlled according to guidelines [3,4].

In recent times, the incidence of allergic diseases, particularly bronchial asthma, has been increasing worldwide. Allergic rhinitis (AR) is the most common immunological disorder and is characterized by an immunoglobulin E (IgE)-mediated inflammation induced by allergen exposure [3]. Infiltrating cells, including T cells, eosinophils, mast cells and basophils, release several mediators, that cause the symptoms occurrence, and cytokines, that promote and amplify the inflammatory cascade [4]. Therefore, AR triggers both a local and a systemic inflammatory process. The main symptoms are the so-called irritative ones, such as itching, sneezing and rhinorrhoea, that are histamine-dependent, and obstruction, that is inflammation-dependent. Among them, a recent European multi-centre, cross-sectional survey evaluated respiratory symptoms in the young adult population. About 60% of asthmatics suffered from AR; on the other hand, AR patients presented an

eightfold risk of having asthma compared to subjects without AR [5].

Allergic rhinitis and asthma share common immunological mechanisms characterized by Th2-dependent inflammation. As a consequence, allergic subjects have typically Th2-polarization and a reduced Th1-response. Interferon (IFN)- γ , a typical Th1-derived cytokine, is deputized for fighting infections. Thus, it has been pointed out that allergic subjects could present a higher susceptibility to contracting respiratory infections (RI) than non-allergic subjects [6].

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to analyze the role of Allergic rhinitis (AR) as a common allergy disorder in asthma patients.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

This cross sectional study was conducted at Punjab Institute of Mental Health, Lahore from January 2019 to October 2019. The data was collected from 50 patients of nose allergy. Blood sample was drawn for the analysis of serum IgE levels. Environmental and behavioural factors and medical history with a focus on allergies, including specific months when rhinitis symptoms without a cold occurred, were assessed at 9 time points by using face-to-face, paper, telephone, and online questionnaires. Specific IgE levels were measured at 9 time points.

The influence of early-life exposures and behavior on AR was assessed by using time-to-event analysis. Disease onset was estimated at the midpoint between the first follow-up meeting case definition criteria and the prior negative (or missing) follow-up coded in days.

RESULTS:

The data was collected from 50 nose allergy patients. Symptom scores were higher in the rhinitis than in control group during all of the experiments ($P < .001$) and were significantly elevated in both groups 4, 24, and 48 hours after beginning the challenge compared with baseline. Total cell count was significantly elevated in both groups. Participants from both rich and poor backgrounds (grandparents and parents) had the same risk of AR as those from average-income families.

Table 01: Genetical analysis of Allergy factors

Gene ID	SNP ID	Asthma Phenotype	Association in Pakistani Population	Populations Already Associated	Global MAF	Allele Frequency in Pakistan
CD14	rs2569190	Allergic rhinitis	Significant[12]	Turkish[13], Chinese Han children[14], Korea[15], Norway[16]	T=0.47	0.557
	rs2569191	Atopic asthma	Significant[12]	Norway[16]	G= 0.47	0.557
IL-4	rs2070874	Atopic asthma	Non-significant [17]	China[18,19], Netherlands [20]	T=0.40	0.198
	rs2243250	Atopic asthma	Significant [17]	Turkish[13], Netherlands [20]	T= 0.47	0.198
IL-13	rs2227284	Atopic asthma	Significant [17]	Polish[21], China[22]	G= 0.39	0.625
	rs1881457	Atopic asthma	Significant [23]	UK[24],	C= 0.20	0.245
	rs847	Atopic asthma	Non-significant [23]	-	T= 0.25	0.323
TBXA2R	rs20541	Atopic asthma	Non-significant [23]	Korea[15,25], UK[24], Portugal[26], Japan[27], China[28]	A= 0.27	0.328
	rs1800925	Asthma	Significant [29]	UK[24], Caucasians[30]	T= 0.25	0.25
	rs1131882	Asthma	'A allele' protective factor [29]	Japan[31]	A= 0.23	0.203
IL10	rs1800896	Asthma	Significant [29]	South India[32]	G= 0.27	0.318
TNF- α	rs1800629	Asthma	Non-significant [33]	West Asians[34], South Asians[34]	A= 0.09	0.057
IKZF3	rs3816470	Asthma	Significant [35]	southern Chinese children[36]	G= 0.47	0.411

DISCUSSION:

Challenges with non-allergenic stimuli on target organs of allergic diseases (eg, the nose, lung, eye, and skin) have shown that the degree of nonspecific tissue reactivity contributes significantly to the clinical picture of allergic diseases, and the heterogeneity of allergic phenotypes is best approached taking into account a wider variety of symptom triggers [7]. Considering that none of the tested individuals had nasal eosinophilic syndromes, this study contributes to the understanding of the mechanism of physical stimuli leading to inflammatory responses in the allergic population [8]. This is in contrast with the nonallergic noneosinophilic rhinitis that, in spite of nasal hyperresponsiveness to nonallergenic stimuli, showed no demonstrable inflammation, and it has been considered a misnomer because of the absence of inflammatory alterations [9].

Allergic rhinitis is characterized by a Th2-polarized inflammation. Th2-derived cytokines, such as IL-4 and IL-13, are the primary pathogenic factors in inducing, maintaining and amplifying inflammatory allergic inflammation. IL-4 and IL-13 orchestrate allergic inflammation promoting IgE synthesis, up-regulating adhesion molecules selective for eosinophil recruitment and causing increased mucus production and airway hyper-reactivity [10]. On the other hand, there is accumulating evidence that Th1-related cytokines, such as IFN- γ and IL-12, may suppress and counteract this Th2 response, and vice versa, as there is a functional dichotomy between Th1 and Th2 cells [11].

CONCLUSION:

It is concluded that there is a need of more studies for the clarification of role of AR as a

immunological disorder in Pakistan. IgE-mediated nasal response but have some features in common.

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