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Mounting evidence for an ehrlichial involvement in systemic lupus erythematosus

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Hemotropic agents, well studied in veterinary medicine, were first suggested as a human pathogen in an article in Nature New Biology in 1972, and there is growing evidence of their involvement in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Over the last four decades a small body of published and unpublished research has reported the following: Ehrlichial antigens identified in the glomeruli of patients with lupus nephritis; Ehrlichia-like intra-erythrocytic inclusions in patients with SLE and endosomal structures suggestive of Ehrlichia in the marrow of patients with SLE. Furthermore, compassionate antibiotic treatment of very ill patients using an antibiotic known to be effective against Ehrlichial agents was conducted, with strongly positive results including changes in observed intra erythrocytic bacterial structures. Self-reactive antibodies are characteristic of SLE and Ehrlichia have been shown to produce errors in transcription in parasitized cell division especially in proliferating cells of the marrow. If Ehrlichia invade the immune system through activity against bone marrow cells (especially stem cells or other precursors of mature B and/or T cells) and interfere with their construction, function and elimination before release to the circulation, the body may be unable to eliminate them in a normal fashion and the self-reactive antibodies would be unleashed on the tissues of the infected patient. Molecular studies using the genetic sequences of the Ehrlichia identified in a human patient with another possibly related illness of the immune system should be undertaken to see if it can be positively identified in the marrow and blood of lupus patients. If so, a compelling alternative explanation of the disease complex of SLE would be proved.

Biography

Charles Kallick completed his MD at the University of Illinois College of medicine Chicago Illinois in 1954. He served as the chairman of the division of infectious disease at cook County hospital, in Chicago Illinois for 20 years until 1993. Since that time Kallick has devoted his research efforts in collaboration with various individuals skilled in molecular microbiology, and laboratories which served diagnostic purposes for the finding of small numbers of bacterial DNA in clinical specimens.

His most important publication document is the one published by the Journal of Medical Hypotheses in 2011, November. One other requested paper is in press, under the title diabetic retinopathy.

The medical hypothesis paper, places the entire 40+ years of research study of the Ehrlichia, and their Association with a large number of diseases now considered of unknown etiology. The basic pathogenesis as suggested in the paper is the peculiar parasitization of the Ehrlicia in their infection of the stem cell, and their well documented interference and disruption of transcription in cell division induced by the parasite intracellularly.

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