Epidemiological and genetic aspects in 20 pediatrics patients with Type 1 Diabetes and Celiac Disease

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Introduction

The association between Celiac Disease (CD) and type 1 diabetes (DB1) is described and demonstrated for a long time, trying to elucidate the reasons why both diseases occur in the same person, evaluating in depth the clinical, epidemiological and genetic aspects in a group of patients. With both diseases, it is interesting from the scientific point of view, since it could provide objective conclusions to define early detection or prevention strategies.

CD and DB1, share known genetic [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] epidemiological and immunological [8] factors; and probably also factors not yet elucidated so both are considered associated diseases. The triggers of DB1 and EC are not clarified, and it is not clear whether gluten has any relationship with DB1, although there is a bibliography that tries to prove it [9].

Objective

To define the moment of diagnosis of both diseases and establish a risk gradient in relation to the HLA-DQ, comparing our patients (with CD and DB1) with a control group in our population [10], of a work previously carried out in our province, and defining the consequent appearance between both diseases.

Material and Method

Retrospective and transversal work, evaluating patients with diagnosis of both diseases in our institution during a period of 10 years, (2009-2018), considering in both, date of diagnosis and genetic study, from information (database) of Children's Gastroenterology Services (2011-2018) and Children's Endocrinology Service (2009-2018) from our Pediatric Hospital.

The diagnosis of DB1 was made according to the criteria of the ADA (AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION), and of EC according to the classic criteria (2009 to 2011) and according to the criteria of the European Society of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Pediatric Nutrition (ESP GHAN) (from 2012 to date).
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We studied 20 pediatric patients with DB1 and EC 13 women and 7 men. Average age 8 years. 193 healthy adults as control group 101 women and 92 men. Average age 42 years.

**HLA typification**

DNA extraction was performed with QIA amp Blood Mini Kit Qiagen. The alleles of the DQB and DQA loci were determined using generic amplification by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and reverse hybridization with specific oligonucleotides (LIPA KEY-INNOGENETICS) and analyzed with LIPA Software.

**Statistical analysis**

The degree of association of an allele between patients and controls was expressed in odds ratio (OR), which was calculated using Wolf's formula. The p value was determined according Yates correction or the Fisher exact test with two tails when one of the samples was less than 5. A p value ≤0.05 was considered significant.

**Results**

Of the 20 patients found with CD and DB1 during this period, in 16 cases the diagnosis was made simultaneously with the debut of DB1, in 3 patients the diagnosis of CD was later than that of DB1 (but within the 1st subsequent year to the diagnosis of DB1, and with the 1st study of antibodies requested to the patients); and in one patient the diagnosis of diabetes at one year and two months after the diagnosis of CD (over 169 patients diagnosed of CD in our institution in a period of 8 years (2011-2018).

Regarding the HLA obtained in the 20 patients with DB1 and CD, 75% (N 15) of the patients had double dose DQ2, double dose DQ8 or DQ2 / DQ8. In the remaining 5 patients, 2 were DQ2 in single dose and 3 DQ8 in single dose. We did not have patients with DQ2.2, nor DQ7.
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**Conclusions**

The diagnosis of both diseases was made simultaneously, at the debut of their DB1 (80%). 168 of 169 patients diagnosed with CD did not develop DB1 after starting the gluten-free diet, with a mean follow-up of 4 years, despite having the genetic risk. The presence of double doses of DQ2.5 or double doses of DQ8 molecules or DQ2.5 / DQ8 phenotype in 75% of patients with CD and DB1 indicates the high risk of developing both diseases. (P< 0.05) The absence of the DQ7 molecule makes us wonder if it confers protection to the development of diabetes.

**References**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DQ MOLECULES</th>
<th>T1D AND CD (N=20)</th>
<th>CONTROLS (N=193)</th>
<th>OR Odds Ratio</th>
<th>P</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>DQ2.5/DQ2.5, DOUBLE DOSE DQ2.5</td>
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DQX: DQ molecule other than DQ2, DQ8 and DQ7, p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. NS: No significant