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Potential utility of natural compounds in the prevention and treatment of hormone sensitive cancers

Mark Feitelson Temple University, USA

Natural compounds have been shown to be useful for the treatment of cancers in preclinical models, but given that cancers are multi-step, efforts have focused upon formulating combination therapies that target early stage tumors in a hypoxic environment, block epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) during tumor metastasis, inhibit uncontrolled cell cycle progression and target cancer stem cells to help prevent tumor relapse. Combinations of natural compounds will also be presented that are likely to be useful against estrogen dependent breast cancer as well as androgen dependent and independent stages of prostate cancer. Results will summarize what is likely to be the most important natural compounds and molecular targets that will results in arrested proliferation during tumor pathogenesis as well as recommendations for the application of natural compound combinations in preclinical models and in human clinical trials.

feitelso@temple.edu

Study of possible relation between maternal serum resistin and insulin resistance in patients with pre-eclampsia

Safeya H Hassan Ain Shams University, Egypt

Introduction: In humans resistin antagonizes the effects of insulin on glucose metabolism in liver and skeletal muscle, interacts with and reinforces inflammatory pathways and may promote endothelial cell activation. Increased resistin levels have been associated with obesity, insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes and increased cardiovascular risk

Objectives: Our study aimed to investigate the utility of maternal serum resistin in women with preeclampsia compared to normal pregnant women and its relation to insulin resistance.

Methods: The study was conducted on ninety (90) females, divided into two groups:- Group I: Pre-eclampsia (n=60) and Group II: Healthy pregnant Control (n=30). All individuals were subjected to the following after an informed oral and written consent: Full history taking, clinical examination with special emphasis on edema, blood pressure measurement and Maternal body mass index (BMI); Index (weight (kg) / height² (m²)), determination of gestational age according to the date of the last menstrual period and confirmed by first trimester ultrasound. Laboratory investigations includingCBC, AST, ALT, BUN, creatinine,HOMA-IR and serum resistin.

Results: Statistical comparison between pre-eclamptic patients (Group I), and the healthy control group (Group II) regarding the different studied parameters revealed a highly statistically significant increase in the patients group than the control group regarding SBP, DBP, BMI, CRE, AST, ALT, 50 g oral glucose challenge test (GCT), FBG, fasting insulin, HOMAIR and resistin. On the contrary, there was a highly statistically significant decrease in the patients group than the control group regarding HB.

Conclusion: In this study it was found that elevated serum resistin levels could be associated with exaggerated insulin resistance in patients with preeclampsia. Further studies are needed to clarify the role of resistin in the patho-physiology of preeclampsia and insulin resistance.

drnouraleslam@yahoo.com