idant activity were overexpressed in the treated group compared to HFD group. On the contrary, 52 genes involved in lipid and collagen biosynthesis and inflammatory response were downregulated.

Conclusions: Prolonged-release pirfenidone decreased miR-21a-5p expression, miR-34a-5p and miR-103-3p expression showed a tendency to decrease. PR-PFD exhibited an anti-steatogenic, anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic effect in the experimental model of NAFLD/NASH.

Conflicts of interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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Clinical and epidemiological characteristics of patients with autoimmune hepatitis in a center of Northeast Mexico

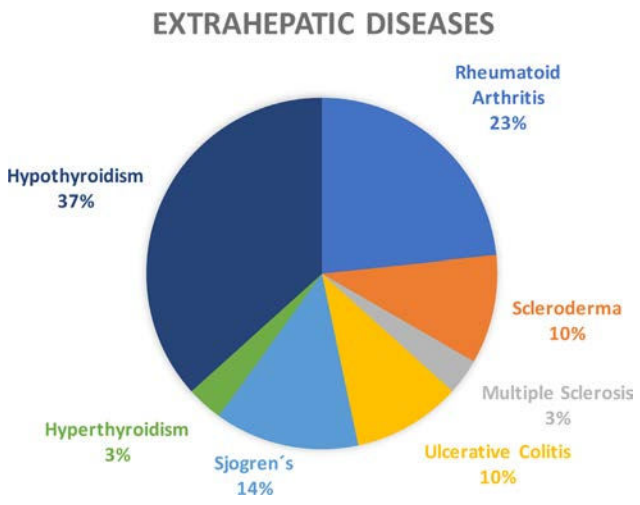
A.L. Kuljacha-Gastélum, P.A. López-Hernández, M.A. Cornejo-Gutiérrez, V.E. del Toro-Ortiz

Gastroenterología, Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, Monterrey, Nuevo León, México

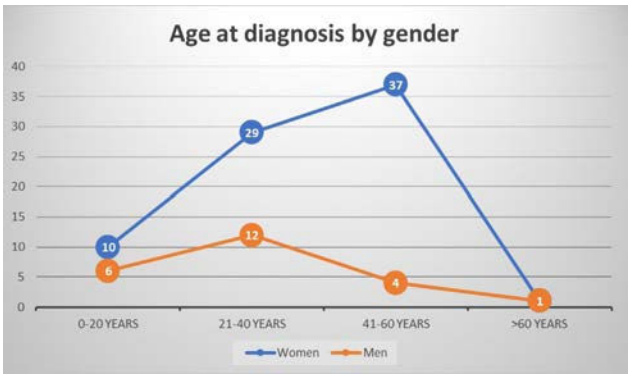
Background and aim: Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) is a very heterogeneous disease with an impact on the morbidity and mortality of patients, which affects all ages, genders, and ethnic groups. It can present either asymptomatically, such as acute hepatitis, cirrhosis, or acute liver failure. Aim: To describe the demographic, biochemical and clinical characteristics of patients with HAI, due to the few epidemiological data that exists in Latin America.

Material and methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted that included patients with HAI attended at the Northeast National Medical Center of the IMSS (Monterrey, Nuevo León). The information was collected from the digital file between March 01, 2019 to April 01, 2020.

Results: A total of 100 patients, 77% female, with an average age at diagnosis of 37 years were included (Graph 1). In the presentation form, 38% were cirrhotic at diagnosis, 2% debuted with acute liver failure, 16% with acute hepatitis, and 44% with asymptomatic abnormal liver tests. Regarding autoantibodies, 75% had positive antinuclear antibodies (ANAs) or smooth muscle antibodies (ASMA). 25% associated autoimmune extrahepatic diseases (Graph 2), and 46% fulfilled criteria for Overlap Syndrome, mostly primary biliary cholangitis (CBP). Regarding treatment, 40% were considered refractory to conventional therapy, meriting the use of



Graph 1. Age at diagnosis by gender ($N = 100$).



Graph 2. Associated extrahepatic diseases.

other immunosuppressors (mycophenolic acid and tacrolimus). Of the total of patients, 32% had received Orthotopic Liver Transplantation (THO).

Conclusions: Autoimmune hepatitis in our population behaves similarly to that described in the world literature, with a greater association to overlap syndrome and refractory treatment, perhaps because it is a reference center.

Conflicts of interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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Pirfenidone induces epigenetic changes modulating the activity of the ppargamma-SIRT1-DNMT1 axis in hepatic stellate cells

H.C. Monroy-Ramírez, M. Galicia-Moreno, A. Santos-García, J.S. Armendáriz-Borunda

Centro Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad de Guadalajara, Facultad de medicina, Tec de Monterrey, Campus Guadalajara, México

Background and aim: The role of epigenetic changes in liver diseases has been described through abundant experimental evidence, highlighting the de-acetylation in residue lysine 9 of histone H3 (H3K9) regulated by SIRT1 (NAD-dependent deacetylase), and methylation of promoters of genes involved in fibrogenic response regulated by DNA-Methyl transferase 1 (DNMT1). Our research group characterized the regulation of pirfenidone (PFD) on PPARalpha/gamma-SIRT1 axis in two experimental animal models: (1) NASH and (2) hepatocarcinoma. The objective of this work was to characterize the changes in the acetylation/de-acetylation of H3K9 induced by PFD treatment in hepatic stellate cells (HSCs), in addition to analyzing the global methylation patterns

Material and methods: HSCs were treated with PFD (500 μM), SIRT172 activator (20 μM) and inhibitor EX527 (80 μM) of SIRT1 for 24 hrs. Subsequently, changes in the expression of SIRT1 and DNMT1 were analyzed by western blot. Immunofluorescence was carried out using markers that detect H3K9 acetylation and global methylation (5MeC; 5Metyl-Cytosine), images were captured with a confocal microscope in order to visualize the cellular co-location of proteins.

Results: The western blot shows that the treatments with PFD and SIRT1720 treatments increase the expression of SIRT1 and DNMT1 proteins, while EX527 reduces them. Immunofluorescence demonstrated that PFD and SIRT1720 decrease the acetylation of H3K9, but increase overall methylation; contrarily, treatment with

EX527 induces an increase in acetylation of H3K9 but decrease overall methylation.

Conclusions: The results of our work indicate for the first time that PFD can regulate epigenetic marks possibly through modulation of the PPARγ-SIRT1-DNMT1 axis. Acetylation in H3K9 decreases with PFD treatment, however overall methylation increases. The perspectives of this work will be to analyze the methylation of specific genes (PPARalpha, IL-6, TNFalpha) involved in the development of liver diseases.

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Molecular, histological and biochemical changes in a NASH murine model whit a diet high in fats and sugars

J.S. Rodríguez Sanabria [1], J. García Bañuelos [1], R. Escutia Gutiérrez [1], C.A. Monraz Méndez [1], J. Armendáriz Borunda [1,2], A.S. Sandoval Rodríguez [1]

[1] *Instituto de Biología molecular en Medicina y Terapia génica, Centro Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Jalisco, México*
[2] *Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Guadalajara, México*

Background and aim: The increase in NASH prevalence coincides with the current obesity pandemic. Obesity is characterized by a state of chronic inflammation with oxidative stress in adipose tissue and liver. A high fat/sugar diet can induce non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, which is characterized by inflammation, hepatocyte swelling, and steatosis. To assess molecular, histological, and biochemical changes in a murine NASH model subjected to a high-fat diet for 16 weeks.

Material and methods: Male mice 4-5 weeks old, C57BL / 6J were fed a high-fat diet (HF, 60% fat, 42gr / L sugars in water) for 16 weeks. Every 4 weeks 4 mice were sacrificed for a follow-up of the model at 4, 8, 12 and 16 weeks. Serum glucose was measured after 4 hours of fasting, animal weight and caloric intake. The liver was removed and weighed, as was the epididymal adipose tissue. AST, ALT, TAG, Chol and VLDL were measured. Immunohistochemistry was performed for α-SMA and hematoxylin-eosin staining, Masson's trichrome and Syrian red. The hepatic expression of IL-6, TNFα, COL1A1 and TGF-β mRNAs was determined by qRT-PCR. Quantitative variables were analyzed with ANOVA, Tukey for parametric data and Kruskal-Wallis for non-parametric data. Opinion CI00518 of ethics and investigation committee.

Results: Animals at week 16 showed high body weight compared to animals with standard diet, presence of steatosis and liver inflammation ($p < 0.05$). Serum glucose increased at week 12 and 16 ($p < 0.05$). The weight of the liver and epididymal fat increases as the model is established, without achieving statistical significance. The histological parameters coincide with the establishment of a steatohepatitis, while the values of the biochemical parameters increase remarkably compared to the control group. Inflammatory and fibrotic genes increase at 16 weeks compared to the control group.

Conclusions: Exposure to a diet high in fat and simple sugars induced increased body weight, steatohepatitis, inflammation, hyperglycemia, and increased expression of liver enzymes and genes involved in inflammation and fibrosis.

Conflicts of interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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Development of a defatting strategy to reduce lipid accumulation and improve the viability of steatotic grafts in liver transplantation

A. Casillas-Ramírez [1,2], A.Y. Rocha-Sánchez [1], Y.E. Hernández-Olvera [1], K.Y. Balderas-Osorio [3], H.Y. Martínez-Padrón [1], C.A. Barrón-Vargas [4], P. Cordero-Pérez [5], H.A. Zapata-Chavira [6]

[1] *Hospital Regional de Alta Especialidad de Ciudad Victoria "Bicentenario 2010", Cd, Victoria, Tam, México*
[2] *Facultad de Medicina e Ingeniería en Sistemas Computacionales de Matamoros, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Matamoros, Tam, México*
[3] *Universidad del Valle de México Campus Ciudad Victoria, Cd, Victoria, Tam, México*
[4] *Hospital Veterinario de Pequeñas Especies, Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Cd, Victoria, Tam, México*
[5] *Liver Unit, Hospital Universitario "Dr. José E. González", Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, N.L., México*
[6] *Transplantation Services, Hospital Universitario "Dr. José E. González", Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, N.L., México*

Background and aim: In order to reduce mortality on waiting list, therapeutic strategies are required to increase the use of steatotic liver grafts in transplantation. However, steatotic grafts tolerate poorly ischemia-reperfusion (I/R) injury, and therefore they show a very high risk to early allograft dysfunction or primary nonfunction after transplantation. The aim of the present research was to evaluate the potential of 3 pharmacological modulators of lipid metabolism to induce defatting and protection against hepatic damage during cold preservation period in steatotic liver grafts.

Material and methods: Wistar rats were fed with a high-fat diet to induce steatosis. Then, steatotic livers were preserved at 4° C for 6 hours, either in Custodiol preservation solution, or in Custodiol solution enriched with caffeine, choline, or L-carnitine. At the end of this period, grafts were washed-out and transaminases and triglycerides in liver tissue were determined. This study was approved by the institutional Research Ethics Committee.

Results: Addition of caffeine to Custodiol solution decreased hepatic triglycerides content by 56% in steatotic grafts when compared with grafts preserved only in Custodiol. Triglycerides content was similar in steatotic grafts preserved in Custodiol enriched with choline or L-carnitine, and in those grafts preserved in Custodiol without additives. Regarding liver injury, preservation in Custodiol supplemented with caffeine, choline or L-carnitine resulted in a decrease in transaminases, compared to the levels observed in preservation with solely Custodiol.

Conclusions: Addition of caffeine to preservation solution trigger defatting in steatotic liver grafts, which is associated with protection against I/R injury. The enrichment of preservation solution with choline or L-carnitine decrease I/R injury in steatotic grafts, but this effect was not related to reduction in triglyceride content.