

## COD. P001

### **Studio multicentrico, randomizzato, in doppio cieco, a gruppi paralleli, placebo-controllato per la valutazione di un nutraceutico in bambini affetti da rinocongintivite allergica: Fase I - trattamento aggiuntivo.**

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Introduzione Il trattamento della rinocongintivite allergica (RCA) in età pediatrica è solitamente di tipo farmacologico, peraltro le terapie ad oggi disponibili sono puramente sintomatiche, non sempre sono efficaci e possono essere gravate da importanti effetti collaterali. Per tale motivo è stato ipotizzato che il ricorso ad una terapia complementare, quale l'uso di nutraceutici, possa rappresentare un valido supporto terapeutico nella gestione della RCA. Oggetto della nostra ricerca è stato un nutraceutico multicomponente, costituito da estratti di Perilla e di quercetina e da vitamina D. Il razionale dello studio era la precedente documentazione della sua efficacia nel ridurre la sintomatologia rinitica in una popolazione adulta affetta da RCA. Alla luce di tale evidenza, l'obiettivo del presente studio, condotto come multicentrico, randomizzato, in doppio cieco, a gruppi paralleli e placebo-controllato, è stato la valutazione dell'efficacia e della sicurezza del nutraceutico orale quale terapia aggiuntiva al trattamento standard della RCA in una popolazione pediatrica. Metodi 146 bambini (94 maschi e 52 femmine, età media 9.1 + 1.9 anni) sono stati stratificati in due gruppi: (i) nutraceutico orale + trattamento standard e (ii) placebo + trattamento standard. Il trattamento standard consisteva nell'assunzione quotidiana per 4 settimane di un antistaminico orale. Ciascun paziente è stato sottoposto a valutazione clinica al tempo basale, e dopo 2 e 4 settimane. Tra gli obiettivi c'erano: la valutazione del Total Symptom Score (TSS), il numero e la durata delle esacerbazioni rinitiche. Risultati Entrambi i gruppi mostravano una significativa riduzione ( $p < 0.0001$ ) del TSS (-63.6% nel gruppo "nutraceutico orale" e -60.7% nel gruppo placebo). Peraltro, tra la seconda e la quarta settimana 24 bambini presentavano un'esacerbazione rinitica: 8 nel gruppo attivo e 16 nel gruppo placebo ( $p < 0,05$ ). Questi bambini erano poli-allergici. Inoltre non si sono verificati eventi avversi rilevanti. Conclusioni Questo studio dimostra la sicurezza e l'efficacia di un nutraceutico orale, contenente estratti di Perilla, quercetina e vitamina D, nel poter prevenire, nonostante sia in atto una terapia standard, un peggioramento clinico in pazienti pediatrici con RCA.

**COD. P002**

**Studio multicentrico, randomizzato, gruppi paralleli, placebo-controllato su un nutraceutico multicomponente quale terapia preventiva in bambini affetti da rinoconguntivite allergica: Fase II – trattamento preventivo**

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Introduzione Gli antistaminici ed i cortisonici nasali rappresentano l'opzione terapeutica più comunemente utilizzata per il trattamento della rinoconguntivite allergica (RCA). In realtà, essi non mostrano una completa efficacia terapeutica e possono, altresì, essere gravati da importati effetti collaterali. Per tale motivo si è deciso di valutare una terapia complementare, basata sull'uso di un nutraceutico, contenente estratti di Perilla e di quercetina e vitamina D. L'obiettivo della seconda parte del presente studio multicentrico, randomizzato, a gruppi paralleli e placebo-controllato, condotto su una popolazione pediatrica, era la valutazione della capacità di prevenire l'esordio di esacerbazioni rinitiche al termine del trattamento standard, cioè una terapia continuativa con un antistaminico orale. Metodi 128 bambini hanno completato la fase II: 64 bambini hanno proseguito il trattamento con nutraceutico orale (gruppo nutraceutico) e 64 non hanno assunto alcun farmaco (gruppo di osservazione) per un intervallo temporale compreso tra 4 e 12 settimane, a seconda se allergici a pollini o ad allergeni perenni. Gli obiettivi dello studio erano: la durata del benessere clinico, cioè senza sintomi, ed il numero, l'intensità e la durata delle eventuali esacerbazioni rinitiche intercorrenti. Risultati I pazienti arruolati nel gruppo nutraceutico avevano un rischio dimezzato di esacerbazioni rinitiche (HR=0.54) ed un numero significativamente minore di esacerbazioni rinitiche rispetto al gruppo osservazione (p=0.039). Ancor più significativo è stato l'effetto sul numero di giorni gravati dall'uso della terapia sintomatica: 153 verso 683 (p<0,0001). Per tutta la durata dello studio non sono stati registrati rilevanti eventi avversi. Conclusione Una prolungata assunzione del nutraceutico multicomponente orale, contenente Perilla, quercetina e vitamina D, può ridurre significativamente il rischio di esacerbazioni rinitiche dopo la sospensione di un trattamento antistaminico continuativo e soprattutto può ridurre notevolmente il bisogno di una terapia sintomatica. La terapia con nutraceutico è inoltre ben tollerata.

**COD. P003**

**MOLECULAR ALLERGOLOGICAL EVALUATION IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Allergic syndrome diagnosis has been based, for a long time, on a careful clinical-anamnestic evaluation and skin prick test (SPT), with the last one, according to current guidelines, being still the gold standard for its first-level diagnosis. However, it is not always sufficient to identify the specific allergen. In laboratory medicine, the use of second-level molecular diagnostics assays that allows the identification of the genuine allergen is therefore appropriate. The aim of this study is to compare the results of SPT with molecular diagnosis, in order to identify the correlation between positivity to allergen extracts and genuine allergens in a cohort of pediatric patients with respiratory symptoms and positive SPT.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

We analyzed 30 patients [M=13; F=17; mean age: 13 (IQR: 10-15.25) yrs], eligible for molecular diagnostics and willing to participate in the study. At the time of blood sampling, patients were symptomatic and untreated; sera were aliquoted and stored at -20 °C. Investigations for allergen extracts d1 (*Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*) and d2 (*Dermatophagoides farinae*) and for molecular allergens Der p 1, Der p 2, Der p 10 and Der p 23 were performed using a FEIA (Fluorescence Enzyme Immune Assay) method on PHADIA250 (ImmunoCap) instrument (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Uppsala, Sweden), using as cut-off value, <100 KU/L.

**RESULTS**

Values >100 KU/L were considered positive. Allergen extracts positivity was observed in 30% of patients for d1 and in 16.6% of patients for d2. Molecular allergen evaluation showed positive results in 13.3% of patients for Der p 1, 40% for Der p 2 and 23,4% for Der p 23. 100% of patients had specific IgE values between 0-10 KU/L for the cross-reactive Der p 10 molecule.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Our data support the appropriate assessment of molecular allergens, at very early-stage, in symptomatic pediatric patients. In this cohort, negative results obtained for the cross-reacting molecule Der p 10 should reflect a better clinical response to an early immunotherapy administration and, thus, a reduced evolution of the allergic march. Laboratory molecular diagnosis has become a pivotal point and, integrated with anamnesis, clinical evaluation and prick test results, may allow physicians to administer a personalized immunotherapy treatment for each patient.

## **COD. P004**

### **Sicurezza dell'immunoterapia specifica nell'allergia al veleno di imenotteri nel bambino**

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**INTRODUZIONE** Dati dalla letteratura scientifica hanno dimostrato come l'immunoterapia specifica con veleno (ITV) rappresenti un trattamento sicuro. Sull'argomento, peraltro, sono stati pubblicati pochi dati relativi a pazienti in età pediatrica.

**SCOPO DELLO STUDIO** Valutare il tasso di pazienti pediatrici andati incontro a reazioni locali, locali estese o sistemiche in corso di ITV per reazioni avverse a puntura di imenotteri; evidenziare il numero totale di tali reazioni, il loro numero medio per ogni ITV e il tasso di reazioni rispetto al numero di dosi somministrate.

**MATERIALI E METODI** E' stata eseguita un'analisi retrospettiva della casistica riguardante bambini inviati all'Allergologia del nostro ospedale per reazioni avverse da puntura di imenotteri nel periodo compreso tra il 1997 e il 2017 e che hanno effettuato una ITV completa. La scelta dell'estratto dell'ITV è stata basata su un workup diagnostico condotto secondo le linee guida EAACI. L'ITV è stata effettuata con un protocollo "cluster".

**RISULTATI** Dopo il workup diagnostico 42 pazienti (36 M, 85,71%; 6 F, 14,29%) hanno effettuato 44 ITV per una durata globale di 244 anni o di 2903 dosi e una durata media di  $66\pm 13$  mesi/ITV o  $65,98\pm 12,02$  dosi/ITV. 41/42 pazienti (97,62%) hanno iniziato ITV dopo aver manifestato una reazione sistemica a seguito di puntura di imenottero (3 M1, 7,15%; 11 M2, 26,19%; 24 M3, 57,14%; 3 M4, 7,14%; secondo il grading di severità di Muller), 1/42 pazienti (2,38%) dopo aver manifestato una reazione locale estesa con fattori di rischio. Gli estratti selezionati per l'ITV sono stati: 10 Apis mellifera (22,73%), 15 Vespa (34,09%), 16 Polistes (36,36%), 3 Vespa crabro (6,82%). Due pazienti hanno effettuato una ITV doppia (Vespa e Polistes). L'età media del paziente all'inizio dell'ITV è stata  $114\pm 41$  mesi. Sono state individuate le seguenti reazioni:

- 256 reazioni locali in 37/44 ITV (84,09%) con una media di 5,82/ITV (8,82% delle dosi);
- 31 reazioni locali estese in 12/44 ITV (27,27%) con una media di 0,70/ITV (1,07% delle dosi);
- 10 reazioni sistemiche di grado-2 (secondo il grado di severità di Ring) in 5/44 ITV (11,36%) con una media di 0,23/ITV (0,34% delle dosi).

**CONCLUSIONI** Dalla nostra esperienza, l'ITV con protocollo "cluster" rappresenta un trattamento sicuro nei pazienti in età pediatrica, con un basso tasso di reazioni sistemiche, di lieve intensità, rispetto al numero di dosi somministrate (0,34%).

**COD. P005**

**RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF A PEDIATRIC POPULATION AFFECTED BY IgE MEDIATED COW'S MILK PROTEIN AND EGG ALLERGY: IDENTIFICATION OF PREDICTIVE FACTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOLERANCE**

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**Introduction.** We aimed to identify predictive factors of oral tolerance to cow's milk and egg and to evaluate differences between cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA) and egg allergy (EA) in terms of development of tolerance.

**Methods.** We retrospectively analyzed data of patients who underwent an oral food challenge to cow's milk and raw egg in the Pediatric Department of San Raffaele Hospital (January 2011 - December 2017). The sample was composed of 70 subjects: 39 had CMPA and 41 had EA (60 patients were allergic to one food and 10 patients were allergic to both). Statistical analysis was performed using JMP14; Wilcoxon and Chi-square tests were used.

**Results.** 94.88% of patients with CMPA developed complete tolerance vs. 68.29% of patients with EA ( $p=0.0197$ ). Median age of tolerance was 1.75 year for cow's milk and 2.96 year for egg ( $p=0.0334$ ). Co-existing EA was associated with a later development of cow's milk tolerance ( $p=0.0135$ ); co-existing CMPA was associated with a lower proportion of development of egg tolerance ( $p=0.0249$ ); respiratory allergies were associated with a lower proportion of development of egg tolerance ( $p=0.0209$ ); wheezing as a symptom at diagnosis was associated with a later development of cow's milk tolerance ( $p=0.0093$ ) and a lower proportion of egg tolerance development ( $p=0.0166$ ); no one with anaphylaxis developed complete egg tolerance ( $p=0.0030$ ).

**Conclusion.** Subjects with a single food allergy, subjects with non-severe symptoms at diagnosis, subjects without respiratory allergy and subjects with CMPA compared to subjects with EA have a more favorable natural history towards food tolerance.

**COD. P006**

**VALUTAZIONE DELLA FUNZIONALITÀ RESPIRATORIA IN BAMBINI DI ETÀ PRE-SCOLARE NATI PREMATURI**

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**Introduzione:** La patologia respiratoria cronica è una delle complicanze più comuni della prematurità ed è frequentemente determinata dalla presenza di displasia broncopolmonare (BPD). I principali outcomes della BPD sono legati alla persistenza di anomalie strutturali e funzionali del tratto respiratorio inferiore: infezioni respiratorie, broncospasmi ricorrenti, ipertensione polmonare persistente. Indipendentemente dalla presenza di BPD, i bambini nati prematuri possono avere una funzionalità respiratoria alterata, con maggiore tendenza all'iperreattività bronchiale e maggiori resistenze a livello delle vie respiratorie.

**Scopo dello studio:** Valutazione di un campione «pilota» di soggetti nati prematuri, con e senza BPD, dal punto di vista della loro salute respiratoria, mediante dati clinici e funzionali.

**Pazienti e metodi:** Sono stati indagati 10 soggetti di età compresa tra i 2 e i 4 anni (5 M, 5 F), con età gestazionale ≤ 32 settimane (24 – 32 SG), peso alla nascita tra 635 g e 1475 g. 7/10 sono stati sottoposti a terapia steroidea di induzione della maturazione polmonare; 9/10 sono stati sottoposti a ventilazione meccanica e hanno ricevuto almeno una dose di surfattante estrattivo; 10/10 hanno utilizzato supporto ventilatorio non invasivo; 10/10 hanno assunto terapia con caffeina. La diagnosi di BPD è stata posta in 6/10; tra questi, 3/6 hanno effettuato terapia con desametasone, 1/6 ha assunto spironolattone e idroclorotiazide. Tutti le famiglie sono state intervistate nel corso di una valutazione ambulatoriale. Le misurazioni della funzionalità respiratoria sono state effettuate mediante metodica RINT (Respiratory Resistance with Interruption Technique) con strumento PonyFX, Cosmed®.

**Risultati:** Tra i pazienti con BPD, 2/6 riportavano infezioni respiratorie ricorrenti, 3/6 broncospasmo ricorrente; tra i pazienti non affetti da BPD, 1/4 ha riferito infezioni respiratorie e 1/4 broncospasmo ricorrente. È stato possibile valutare la funzionalità respiratoria con metodica RINT in 3/10 pazienti, tutti con diagnosi di BPD. Nei restanti l'esame non è stato completato per scarsa collaborazione da parte del paziente. Nei 3 pazienti analizzati, i valori di resistenza misurati al test basale sono risultati aumentati (Z-score +1,32, +2,60, +2,81), tuttavia il test di broncodilatazione non è risultato significativo, sebbene si osservi una parziale riduzione delle resistenze dopo inalazione di salbutamolo (-21%, -23%, -19%).

**Conclusioni:** Nell'ambito del follow-up dei bambini nati prematuri sarebbe ottimale verificare la presenza di sintomi respiratori e, quando possibile, effettuare un tentativo di valutazione oggettiva della funzionalità respiratoria. Tali azioni permettono di identificare i soggetti a rischio di evoluzione verso una patologia polmonare cronica, che possono giovare di terapie mirate.

**COD. P007**

**THE PREDICTIVE VALUE OF SPECIFIC IGE LEVELS AS INDICATOR OF FUTURE TOLERANCE IN A PEDIATRIC POPULATION AFFECTED BY COW'S MILK PROTEIN AND EGG ALLERGY**

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**Introduction:** Most patients with cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA) and egg allergy (EA) develop tolerance during childhood. We wanted to define whether the specific IgE levels at the time of diagnosis of CMPA or EA could be indicators of future oral tolerance to these food.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed clinical data of patients who underwent an oral food challenge to cow's milk and raw egg in the Pediatric Department of San Raffaele Hospital (January 2011 to December 2017). The sample included 70 subjects: 39 had CMPA and 41 had EA (60 patients were allergic to single food and 10 patients were allergic to both of them). Statistical analysis was performed by using JMP14; Wilcoxon test was used.

**Results:** Lower specific IgE levels at diagnosis were significantly associated with a greater proportion and a more precocious development of food tolerance. Particularly, lower alpha-lactalbumin specific IgE levels were significantly associated with a precocious development of cow's milk tolerance ( $p=0.0142$ ); lower egg white and yolk specific IgE levels were significantly associated with development of egg tolerance: median egg white IgE levels of 3.74 kU/L for patients that developed tolerance vs 8.9 kU/L for patients that didn't develop tolerance ( $p=0.0050$ ), median yolk IgE levels of 0.99 kU/L for patients that developed tolerance vs 3.28 kU/L for patients that didn't develop tolerance ( $p=0.0236$ ).

**Conclusion:** Our results confirm that subjects with cow's milk and egg allergy who have lower specific IgE levels at diagnosis have a more favorable natural history towards tolerance.

**COD. P008**

**SPECIFIC IGE LEVELS CAN PREDICT AN ORAL FOOD CHALLENGE OUTCOME IN PATIENTS WITH EGG ALLERGY**

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**Introduction:** Egg allergy (EA) is frequent during childhood with a prevalence of 1-2% in the first three years of life. Most patients with EA (70%) develop tolerance, which can be confirmed by a negative Oral Food Challenge (OFC). We aimed to identify whether the titre of specific IgE vs. egg white and yolk can be predictive of OFC outcome in children with EA.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed data of patients who underwent an OFC to raw egg in the Pediatric Department of San Raffaele Hospital (January 2011 to December 2017). The sample was composed of 41 subjects. Statistical analysis was performed by using JMP14 (Pearson's Chi-square test)

**Results:** Every subject with egg specific IgE <0.35 kU/L had a negative raw egg OFC ( $p=0.0003$ ). Conversely, subjects with egg specific IgE >3.5 kU/L never developed completed tolerance, proven with an OFC, in the analyzed time.

**Conclusion:** To subjects with egg specific IgE <0.35 kU/L a gradual reintroduction of food at home could be safely proposed, since it has been proven that every patient with IgE levels under this cut-off passed the OFC. Moreover, it has been proven that every patient with egg specific IgE >3.5 kU/L failed the OFC. The resulting decrease of OFCs would allow us to reduce the direct health and the indirect social expenditures. Subjects with persistently elevated egg specific IgE levels can be addressed to alternative strategies like OFC with baked egg or oral immunotherapy.

**COD. P009**

**A CASE OF KAWASAKI SHOCK SYNDROME: A CHALLENGING DIAGNOSIS, A CHALLENGING INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE**

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A.C., 5 years old boy, was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, London with 6 days of fever, persistent on amoxicillin, associated with oral mucosal ulceration, cervical lymphadenopathy, erythematous rash on face and trunk and conjunctivitis. Past medical history was negative. Family history was positive for autoimmune disease: a brother with Juvenile Arthritis, treated with Methotrexate and Infliximab, a sister with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus. During his initial assessment in the emergency department, the patient became lethargic and hypotensive, requiring fluid resuscitation, peripheral adrenaline infusion and tracheal intubation for cardiovascular instability. Blood examination showed Platelets  $59,000/\text{mm}^3$ , White cell count  $3,900/\text{mm}^3$ , Neutrophils  $2,900/\text{mm}^3$ , C-Reactive Protein  $263\text{mg/L}$ , Troponin  $39\text{ng/L}$ . Two main differential diagnoses were considered: Toxic Shock Syndrome and Kawasaki Shock Syndrome (KSS). Broad-spectrum antibiotics,  $2\text{mg/kg}$  of Intravenous Immunoglobulin and Methylprednisolone were administered. As the Echocardiography showed dilated right and left coronary arteries, and, as the patient was still febrile with increased CRP, on Day 3 he received a dose of Infliximab, leading to defervescence and rash resolution. Naso-pharyngeal aspirate was positive for Influenza A Virus, Rhinovirus/Enterovirus, and Parainfluenza 4. The ANA Screening was weakly positive, negative by IIF on HEP2 cells. This patient fulfilled criteria for Kawasaki Disease, and presented with shock. Low platelet count, high CRP and IVIG resistance may be present in KSS. KSS aetiology is unknown, probably intense systemic vasculitis, capillary leak and myocardial impairment are involved. Aberrant inflammatory response due to an underlying host immunological susceptibility is likely, although genetic polymorphisms associated with susceptibility to KSS remain undiscovered.

## **COD. P010**

### **Il mistero nella zuppa...**

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Gabriele è un ragazzo di 12 anni; anamnesi caratterizzata da dermatite atopica nei primi anni di vita. Dai 3 anni di vita episodi di rinocongiuntivite per cui sono stati effettuati prick test con riscontro di positività per graminacee, parietaria, betulla, nocciolo, olivo, ontano, gatto, acari della polvere. Giunge alla nostra osservazione a 10 anni di vita (2017) dopo due episodi di anafilassi a seguito di assunzione di zuppa contenente grano saraceno (angioedema del volto, orticaria diffusa, dolori addominali, tosse con sensazione di costrizione toracica). Vengono effettuati esami per prelievo per esami di diagnostica molecolare. L'Isac immunocup evidenziava positività per: nCyn d 1; r Phl p 1-2-4-5b-6; rBet v1; r Ole e 1; rFel d 1; rDer f 2, rDer p 2; componenti PR -10 positive ma negatività per grano saraceno (n Fag e 2). Rinviato a domicilio, comunque, a dieta priva di grano saraceno. Al controllo dopo un anno riscontro di cutipositività per grano saraceno. Si effettua dosaggio IgE s (ImmunoCap 1000) con riscontro di positività elevata per grano saraceno (7,63kUA/l). Confermata esclusione del grano saraceno dalla dieta. L'ISAC®, "acronimo per "Immuno Sorbent Allergo Chip", utilizzando singole componenti allergeniche (ricombinanti o native), tra le sue singolarità, permette di discriminare con maggiore accuratezza l'allergene che causa la sintomatologia allergica soprattutto nei soggetti polisensibilizzati. Nel nostro caso la selettività dell'Isac ha fornito un falso negativo su una sintomatologia allergica severa. Considerando che con le nuove tendenze alimentari, il grano saraceno sta acquistando sempre nuovo spazio, la nostra esperienza suggerisce la necessità di integrare nella diagnostica allergica tutte le risorse disponibili associate alla clinica, anche quelle meno specifiche, per formalizzare una corretta diagnosi di allergia fondamentale soprattutto nel caso di Anafilassi per le possibili conseguenze anche molto gravi per il paziente.

## COD. P011

### Anafilassi indotta da Lipid Transfer Protein (LTP) in un adolescente

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Le LTP sono piccole molecole di 9-10 kDa, stabili al calore ed alla digestione peptica, che possono determinare manifestazioni cliniche importanti. Si tratta di panallergeni la cui via di sensibilizzazione è rappresentata essenzialmente dal tratto gastrointestinale ma non può essere esclusa una sensibilizzazione per via cutanea o respiratoria. I pazienti sensibilizzati presentano quasi sempre una positività delle IgE per le LTP della pesca (Pru p3). Diversi studi hanno dimostrato che tali LTP dominano la risposta immunologica come se Pru p3 contenesse tutti gli epitopi LTP leganti IgE. Nei soggetti sensibili alle LTP l'espressione clinica dell'allergia alimentare è fortemente influenzata dalla co-sensibilizzazione ad allergeni pollinici e/o allergeni labili piante-alimenti. Case Report: Giorgio P., 13 anni, giunge alla nostra osservazione a giugno 2018 con una storia di anafilassi alimentare. Anamnesi familiare positiva per rinocongiuntivite allergica da acari della polvere. Anamnesi personale fisiologica non contributiva. Anamnesi patologica remota: un episodio di Sindrome Allergica Orale (SOA) con dolori addominali e broncospasmo intenso dopo assunzione di parmigiana di melanzane, trattato a domicilio con betametasona e salbutamolo. Nell'aprile 2018 dolori addominali, alvo dispeptico e difficoltà respiratorie dopo ingestione di pollo grigliato, con prezzemolo e banane, trattato a domicilio. Prima di questi episodi solo lieve rinite. G. in day hospital pratica skin prick tests (SPT) con estratti commerciali, prick by prick (PbP) con alimenti vegetali freschi, dosaggio IgE totali e specifiche (Cap System) per le componenti allergeniche di vari alimenti ed inalanti, determinazione ISAC (112 allergeni) e valutazione del FeNO nell'esalato e spirometria basale. Dai risultati di SPT-PbP-IgE si pongono come ipotesi diagnostiche una sensibilizzazione alle LTP o una Sindrome frutta-lattice. IgE tot: 119 KU/l. IgE specifiche positive per grano, melanzana, pomodoro, prezzemolo, lattice con rPru p3 (16.8 KUA/l), rARA h9 (7.74 KUA/l) e rCor a8 (7.87 KUA/l), panallergeni di classe prima (termo e gastroresistenti) capaci di indurre gravi reazioni sistemiche. ISAC conferma la presenza di IgE specifiche per le componenti alimentari e inalatorie contenenti LTP, incluso Par j2, nArt v3, nOle e7, nJug r3, e nPla a3. Non rilevata la sensibilizzazione al lattice in quanto non è stato testato con ISAC r Hev b12. Positive IgE specifiche per gli acari della polvere. Il paziente presenta una Sindrome da LTP con IgE specifiche per diversi alimenti e inalanti, panallergene contenuto nella buccia di frutta fresca e secca e verdure e nei succhi di frutta del commercio. Commenti: La possibilità di reazioni cliniche gravi in adolescenti, soprattutto in Campania, da ingestione di alimenti apparentemente diversi ma caratterizzati dalla presenza comune di questo panallergene.

## **COD. P012**

### **Caso di lattante con malformazione congenita adenomatoide cistica polmonare, diagnosticata solo grazie all'esecuzione di ecografia polmonare.**

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Lattante di nove mesi condotto presso il nostro Pronto Soccorso a febbraio 2018 per tosse produttiva da quattro giorni associata a febbre elevata. In anamnesi: nato a termine in Marocco dopo gravidanza normodecorsa; ecografie fetali negative; peso neonatale adeguato, non problematiche perinatali; riferito sempre in buona salute con buona crescita staturo-ponderale. Alla visita in Pronto Soccorso segnalati unicamente al torace rantoli a medie bolle alla base polmonare sinistra e riscontro agli esami ematici di indici di flogosi elevati. La RX torace in urgenza mostrava consolidamento parenchimale para e retrocardiaco sinistro. Come da prassi presso la nostra Pediatria, a completamento diagnostico veniva eseguita ecografia polmonare che evidenziava la componente multicistica della formazione; tale lesione, rimasta invariata al controllo ultrasonografico in benessere eseguito dopo adeguata terapia antibiotica, ci ha fatto porre diagnosi di sospetta malformazione adenomatoide cistica del polmone. A conferma veniva eseguita TAC torace che confermava la diagnosi definitiva. Il piccolo veniva quindi sottoposto a lobectomia polmonare sinistra presso il Centro di Chirurgia Pediatrica di Riferimento.

Conclusioni: Il nostro caso richiama l'attenzione sull'utilità dell'esecuzione della ecografia toraco-polmonare, come complemento alla radiografia tradizionale. Lo studio sonografico complementare, in questo contesto, ci ha consentito la diagnosi.

**COD. P013**

**L'OMALIZUMAB PER IL TRATTAMENTO DELLA DERMATITE ATOPICA SEVERA REFRATTARIA: DUE CASI CLINICI**

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Claudia, 15 anni, affetta da dermatite atopica severa (DA), asma bronchiale dai primi mesi di vita e miastenia gravis diagnosticata all'età di 13 anni. Presentava un importante peggioramento clinico della DA dall'età di 5 anni, con ricorrenti impetiginizzazioni, congiuntiviti batteriche e vulvovaginiti da Candida. La paziente mostrava uno scarso controllo della patologia respiratoria (in trattamento con CSI+LABA), con ulteriore peggioramento dopo l'avvio della terapia con piridostigmina bromuro per la patologia neurologica, pertanto sospesa. Per la DA severa, refrattaria ai trattamenti di I, II e III linea, Claudia eseguiva anche un ciclo di terapia con immunosoppressore (ciclosporina) della durata di 3 mesi con parziale beneficio. Da Gennaio 2019, per l'asma non ben controllabile, veniva avviato trattamento con anticorpo monoclonale anti-IgE (Omalizumab), alla posologia di 600 mg ogni 15 giorni sulla base delle IgE totali (834 UI/ml) ed il peso della paziente, con remissione clinica della sintomatologia respiratoria ma scarsa risposta sull'eczema cutaneo severo, persistenza del prurito implacabile e necessità di ricorrere frequentemente all'uso di CS topico e sistemico. Francesco, 16 anni, affetto da DA severa dall'età di 3 mesi, APLV con acquisita tolleranza dal 1° anno di vita ed asma allergico di grado moderato/severo con cutipositività per acari della polvere, per i quali ha eseguito SLIT solo per qualche mese, sospeso per scarsa tolleranza. Due anni fa presentava una severa riacutizzazione dell'eczema con frequenti impetiginizzazioni, non responsiva a terapia di I e II linea. Praticava quindi terapia con ciclosporina per 3 mesi, senza significativo beneficio. Sei mesi fa, previa autorizzazione del comitato etico, ha avviato trattamento con Omalizumab alla dose di 450 mg ogni 15 giorni (IgE totali 13908 UI/ml), con modesto beneficio e persistenza della dermatite, ma con netto miglioramento dell'asma. L'Omalizumab è un anticorpo monoclonale umanizzato anti-IgE indicato per il trattamento dell'asma allergico grave e dell'orticaria cronica spontanea in pazienti di età rispettivamente maggiore di 6 e 12 anni. È utilizzato in forma off-label nel trattamento della dermatite atopica grave refrattaria alla terapia topica e/o sistemica di I, II e III livello. I dati della letteratura sull'efficacia dell'Omalizumab nella DA non sono univoci. I risultati apparirebbero migliori nei bambini, transitori e parziali negli adulti. La nostra esperienza in entrambi i pazienti adolescenti è in linea con quanto emerso dalla letteratura circa la sicurezza del farmaco e l'efficacia clinica nella patologia respiratoria. Non si è registrato soddisfacente controllo della DA rispettivamente a 3 e 6 mesi dall'inizio della terapia. Riteniamo al contrario interessanti le prospettive con altro tipo di farmaco biologico (anti-IL4, Dupilumab), tuttavia in atto off-label in età pediatrica.

## **COD. P014**

### **Treatment and follow-up with omalizumab of a refractory case of solar urticaria**

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Solar urticaria(SU)is a rare chronic photodermatosis.It's characterized by urticarial skin lesions at the sites photoexposed.First-line treatment is sun protection,H1-antihistamines and short course(s)of oral steroids.However SU is often unresponsive.Omalizumab is an anti-IgE antibody,approved for severe,difficult asthma and chronic idiopathic urticaria.We describe the case of a 16year-old girl with a history of SU unresponsive to conventional therapies but dramatically and fully responsive to omalizumab(4years of overall treatment).Phototest was positive for UVB.She started therapy with omalizumab on the basis of her initial serum IgE level(228 IU/ml)and her body weight(375mg/every 2weeks).Already at first administration,she had an excellent response and the improvement persisted also during the maintenance phase of treatment.After6months,we started to reduce the dose of omalizumab(300mg/month in a single dose in the 7th month,150mg in 8th and 9th month of treatment)up to suspension.Since the 4th month of omalizumab washout,the patient had the disease remission.Phototest was negative both for UVA and UVB after 4months from the suspension of omalizumab(1).During the following 3years,the patient was treated with 1cycle/year of omalizumab(300 mg/every 4week)for6 months the first two years and12months the third year,without adverse events or disease exacerbation.The phototest maintained persistently negative during the follow-up.Therefore,despite the mild relapse of urticaria and the necessity of further courses of therapy,we confirm safety and efficacy of omalizumab in patients suffered of SU not responding to standard pharmacological treatments.

**COD. P015**

**A comparison between hospital-based rush protocol versus a repeated clinical attendance protocol for cow's milk oral tolerance induction**

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**Introduction:** Cow's milk allergy (CMA) is one of the most common food allergy in the pediatric age, affecting 0,8% of children in Italy. Specific Oral Tolerance Induction (SOTI) is recommended with a grade A of evidence as treatment option in children with CMA (EAACI guidelines 2018). Different protocols are available but no one is standardized and worldwide accepted.

**Objectives:** To compare two different protocols of cow's milk oral desensitization based on literature evidences.

**Methods:** We searched on PubMed all cow's milk oral desensitization studies conducted at the Allergy Unit of IRCCS Burlo Garofalo in Trieste and the Pediatric Allergy Unit of University Hospital "G. Martino" in Messina in the last 15 years.

**Results:** We found 7 studies. At the Allergy Unit of Trieste, based on tolerance level after positive cow's milk challenge, specific IgE levels and type of reactions, patients are eligible before for in-hospital rush-SOTI protocol and after for home-SOTI protocol or directly for home-SOTI protocol, without any other follow-up. At the Allergy Unit of Messina, after positive cow's milk challenge, patients undergo to in-hospital weekly up-dosing protocol. Percentages of positive outcomes, failures and adverse effects are reported in Table 1.

**Conclusion:** This comparison shows that both protocols are effective, safe and useful in different contexts. However available literature is too limited and several questions on the best management of these children remain open. A comparison prospective multicentric study could verify successful outcomes, adverse effects, patient's quality of life, the burden of allergy unit and cost analysis.

**COD. P016**

**Allergic contact dermatitis in young patients with type 1 diabetes: an emerging problem.**

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**Introduction.** The increasing use of advanced devices for type 1 diabetes (T1D) treatment, such as continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII), has resulted in important improvements in disease management. However, allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) caused by adhesive tape used to attach these diabetic medical devices has been increasingly described in the literature in the last few years. The aim of this study was to describe our experience of ACD and the rate of cutaneous sensitization among T1D children and adolescents treated with CSII.

**Patients and Methods.** We enrolled 30 diabetic patients who used CSII for at least 2 months. Of these, 16 subjects had already presented skin lesions typical of ACD and were included in the "case group". The remaining 14 patients represented the "control group". Data analysed included demographic and clinical variables. All the patients were patch tested with Allergopharma series. (Table 1).

**Results.** Patch tests resulted positive in 76.7% of patients (87.5% in the case group, 64.2% in the control group). 8 patients presented a strong (++) reaction to colophonium. Patch test positivity was not correlated to pre-existing allergic comorbidities and CSII treatment duration.

**Conclusions.** The rate of sensitization to allergens included into diabetic medical devices among pediatric patients is higher than previously assumed. Further research are required to identify eventual risk factors predisposing ACD in patients with T1D. Moreover, we suggest that manufactures should supply detailed information about adhesives in order to avoid dermatological complications and consequently a worsening of disease management and patients' quality of life.

Table 1. Patients' demographic, clinical data and patch tests results.

**COD. P017**

**Fluticasone furoate in combination with the beta 2 agonist vilanterol: our experience**

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**Introduction.** The combination therapy fluticasone furoate with vilanterol has been shown to be beneficial for patients affected with traditional treatment resistant asthma. Available data are mainly focused on adult patients, especially since the cut-off age for its clinical prescription is 12 years.

**Results.** We report on 12 adolescent patients (mean age: 14,75 ; range: 12-17 years), followed at our Clinic, affected with treatment resistant asthma. Patients were initially put on inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) followed by ICS+ long-acting  $\beta$ 2-agonist (LABA) bidaily without good clinical response, as also demonstrated by insufficient increase of FEV1, partially due to incomplete treatment adherence. Thus, affected patients were put on Fluticasone furoate/vilanterol (FF/VI) once daily (OD). During follow-up, the majority of patients (9/12; 75%) showed a significant benefit from this treatment, with FEV1 values >20% upon testing and without exacerbations of asthma. The three patients that did not respond in an optimal manner to Fluticasone furoate/vilanterol (FF/VI) once daily (OD) presented comorbidities such as obesity and exercise-induced bronchoconstriction.

**Conclusions.** Although available data in the literature are limited on the efficacy of Fluticasone furoate/vilanterol (FF/VI) once daily (OD) in the treatment of adolescent patients with resistant-to-treatment asthma, our data suggest that FF/VI may be a valid option for this age group, both in terms of clinical efficacy and patients adherence to treatment.

## **COD. P018**

### **Idiopathic Anaphylaxis: our cases**

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Introduction. Diagnosis of idiopathic anaphylaxis (IA) is based on the classical criteria of anaphylaxis with exclusion of specific triggers such as food, drugs or insect sting. IA has been reported to be more frequent among adult female atopic individuals,

Cases. A retrospective analysis of our clinical records identified two patients with IA. Patient 1, a 14 year old adolescent, presented 4 episodes of anaphylaxis characterized by sneezing, laryngeal edema, wheezing, abdominal pain and diarrhea. ISAC resulted positive for Parietaria. Her episodes were treated with oral anti-histamine and steroid with good response. Patient 2, a 7 year old girl, presented 3 episodes of anaphylaxis characterized by urticaria, angioedema, diarrhea, and hypotension. ISAC resulted positive for dog epithelium, although she had a dog at her household, Clinical history did not reveal any possible triggers, such as exercise or food allergies; a secondary form of anaphylaxis was excluded by blood and instrumental testing (thyroid and parathyroid dysfunction, carcinoid syndrome, pheochromocytoma and mastocytosis). Both patients responded to oral treatment with anti-histaminics and steroids; adrenaline treatment was never required, although both patients were carry adrenaline with them, considering their clinical history. Conclusions. IA is a rare condition that requires particular attention, since specific treatment guidelines are not available and secondary causes should always be excluded. Since available data on IA are limited, further studies that may better define the clinical onset and outcome of affected patients are warranted.

**COD. P019**

**Allergies and pediatric selective IgA deficiency: long-term single center follow-up of 184 pediatric patients**

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**Introduction.** Selective IgA deficiency (SIgAD) is a primary immunodeficiency with an estimated incidence of 1:600, characterized by IgA serum levels <7mg/dl, with normal IgG and IgM and normal lymphocyte subset distribution. Although it has been reported that patients affected with SIgAD present a higher predisposition to allergies, detailed data from long-term follow-up pediatric studies are lacking.

**Results.** In our single-center cohort, 184 pediatric patients were regularly followed with annual visits for a total of 812 patient-years. Mean follow-up time per child was 8.9 years. The mean age at diagnosis was 7.7 years (range 4-17 years). Allergies were present at diagnosis in 42/184 patients (22.8%). Of note, a positive family history for allergies was present at diagnosis in 106/184 cases (57.6%). Allergies included both respiratory and cutaneous manifestations and were dependent on numerous allergens. More than 60% of allergic patients were allergic to more than one allergen. During follow-up, allergies were diagnosed in an additional 30/184 patients (16.3%), leading to the overall presence of allergies in 72/184 patients (39.1%). Of note, within the pediatric SIgAD cohort with allergies, positive family history for allergies was particularly high (85.7%).

**Discussion.** Our data confirm the association between SIgAD and allergies, and also indicate a strong positive family history for allergies within this cohort. Furthermore, our data define for the first time the incidence and type of allergies in pediatric SIgAD during long term-follow-up and underline the need for regular clinical follow-up for affected patients.

## **COD. P020**

### **A case report: long term benefits of Omalizumab off-label therapy**

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Omalizumab is a monoclonal anti-IgE antibody, indicated as an add-on therapy in patients with severe uncontrolled asthma. Aim of this case is to describe off-label treatment with omalizumab in a patient with high total IgE. AE is a 17 years old boy, followed in our Paediatric Allergology Centre since 2012 for allergic severe persistent asthma. In 2017 his spirometry revealed a Tiffenau index equal to 50%, severe mixed obstructive ventilatory defect and a positive bronchodilation test. It was started a 6 months off-label therapy with omalizumab 600 mg every 15 days (weight 77 kg - total IgE 1916 IU/mL) with progressive improvement of spirometry with Tiffenau index always higher than 70% and negative bronchodilation tests. Furthermore, he was hospitalised for acute asthma attack. Subsequently, he was treated with fluticasone, montelukast, salmeterol and nasal steroid cycles. On February 2018, Tiffenau index was equal to 66% and total IgE were 964.0 IU/mL. On April 2018 omalizumab was restarted at the same dosage. After 6 months off-label therapy with omalizumab, bronchodilation test was normally (Tiffenau index equal to 90%). During treatment he had not symptoms of asthma or treatment side effects. He also lost weight (about 10 kg). Six months after the end of treatment, he maintains clinical well-being. The case suggests how patients with severe allergic asthma can benefit from therapy with omalizumab despite high total IgE. Benefits of Omalizumab seem to remain long-term and they could be boosted by weight loss. Further studies will be necessary to evaluate how long these long-term beneficial effects last.

## **COD. P021**

### **A case of post-pneumococcal acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM). Immunological and therapeutical implications.**

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We report a case of acute meningoencephalitis in a child caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, complicated with acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM). A 10 years old immunocompetent female presented to our pediatric emergency department with fever, headache, vomiting, altered state of consciousness without signs of meningeal irritation. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) examination revealed polymorphonuclear pleocytosis, increased protein level, decreased glucose level and pneumococcal antigene positivity. Ceftriaxone, vancomycin and dexamethasone were started, with clinical improvement. After three days of treatment, the patient showed neurological deterioration. Brain MRI detected multiple T2-hyperintense lesions suggestive for ADEM. CSF/blood isoelectrofocusing showed polyclonal IgG distribution. Intravenous polyclonal immunoglobulins were started (400mg/kg/die for 5 days), with initial neurological improvement, but subsequent deterioration on day five. She responded well to high doses intravenous methylprednisolone (IVMP) pulse therapy (1g/die) for five days and oral tapering over 8 weeks, with complete clinical and neuroradiological recovery. This is the first case of ADEM associated with pneumococcal meningitis in children in the literature. Epidemiological and serological studies suggest that ADEM can be triggered by infections in susceptible subjects (molecular mimicing). Few adult cases of post-pneumococcal ADEM have been reported, highlighting a dramatic clinical and radiological improvement following treatment with IVMP, even in the presence of invasive pneumococcal infection. Clinical history and the evaluation of the immunological status allow to identify susceptibility and risk factors for ADEM. New studies are needed to better define the pathogenetic mechanisms that relate pneumococcal infection to ADEM, and consequently the best therapeutic and preventive strategies.

**COD. P022**

**An uncommon case of cow milk allergy: between IgE mediated allergy and FPIES**

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Cow's milk allergy (CMA) is one of the most common food allergy. The IgE-mediated mechanisms are responsible for approximately 60% of cow's milk (CM) induced adverse reactions, and they are associated with symptoms that appear immediately or within one or two hours after CM ingestion, involving skin, respiratory system and gastrointestinal tract.

Emily, a 9-months-old baby, was conducted to our ambulatory for a suspected CMA. At the age of 7 months, a few minutes after eating cow's cheese, she presented urticaria and sneezing. In the past she ate parmigiano without any adverse reaction. We performed skin prick test resulted positive for CM, so we suggest a cow's milk protein-free diet. At the age of 19 months she performed an oral food challenge (OFC) for CM developing urticaria and respiratory symptoms. A desensitization protocol was started. At the age of 31 months IgE specific autoantibodies were performed: beta-lactoglobuline specific IgE were negative and Alfa-lactalbumine and Caseina specific IgE were positive. An OFC was repeated: unexpectedly, she didn't present immediate adverse reactions but she manifested an episode of vomiting and paleness after four hours by the assumption of CM. The day after she presented a similar episode four hours after cow's cheese ingestion. We didn't find in literature any association between IgE mediated CMA and the risk of developing a food protein induced enterocolitis syndrome (FPIES). We hypothesize that IgE mediated mechanisms may predispose a deregulation of the T cell response.

## **COD. P023**

### **A case of suspected wheat allergy: when clinical features and molecular diagnosis disagree.**

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Wheat allergy (WA) is common in childhood, and wheat avoidance imposes major dietary restrictions. Wheat is a grass from the Poaceae family and many allergenic wheat proteins can crossreact with grass pollen allergens. This may cause false-positive test results in patients with a grass sensitization. Mattia, five years old, has been followed at our Paediatric Allergology Clinic since the age of 3 years for allergic rhinitis with a skin prick test reactivity to grass. In the last year he manifested episodes characterized by vomiting and diarrhea (about 10 times a month), in absence of growth failure. It results negative antitransglutaminase antibodies and positive IgE Antibodies to wheat, tomato, potato, apple and banana by laboratory analyses. We suggest avoidance of this foods with improvement of symptoms. In addition it was performed ISAC test that showed a positive results for grass (Phlp1, Phlp2, Phlp4, Phlp5b, Phlp6 e Cynd1) and negative for wheat (Tria14, Tria19, TriaaA) and for the others foods. Mattia progressively introduced wheat in his diet but, after two days of assumption, he developed urticaria, diarrhea and headache, with a complete recovery after wheat elimination diet. One month after he presented a similar episode, when he eat wheat gluten free bread and manifested diarrhea in a few hours. In consideration of the high clinical suspicion of WA we hypothesize that our patient could have developed an hypersensitivity to a minor molecule that is not yet tested by the standard molecular diagnostic panel.

## **COD. P024**

### **Tree-nuts allergy: single nut or all nuts free-diet?**

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C. (13yrs/F) presented generalized urticaria/angioedema and cough/wheezing after brazilian-walnut's ingestion; she used to eat other nuts except hazelnuts. SPTs were positive for hazelnut, negative for walnut, peanuts and aeroallergens. SIgEs were positive for brasilian walnut (rBer e1 53U/ml) and halzenut (rCor a14 6,57 U/ml, rCor a1, rCor a8). To exclude hazelnut allergy, an oral food challenge (OFC) was performed and C. ate 4 hazelnuts without symptoms. Thus, a selective allergy for brazilian-walnut was diagnosed and self-injectable adrenaline was prescribed with the indication of a brasilian-walnut-free diet. (3yrs/M) showed rash, hives and vomiting after eating pasta with pesto containing cashews. SPTs resulted strongly positive to cashew and pistachio. SIgEs were positive for pistachio (13.10 kU/L), cashew (rAna o3 8.45 kU/L), walnut (rJug r1 86.20 kU/L, rJug r3 2.06 kU/L) and hazelnut (rCor a8 1.07 kU/L, rCor a 14 1.56 kU/L, rCor a9 19.50 kU/L). In the meantime, he presented a systemic reaction after eating walnuts, which were previously tolerated. For this reason, all nuts were initially excluded from the diet. An OFC was then performed with hazelnuts and pine-nuts and was passed. Self-injectable adrenaline was prescribed with indication of walnut, cashew and pistachio-free diet. Conclusions: Adverse reactions to one tree-nut often lead physicians to prescribe a tree-nuts-free diet, impairing the QoL of patients and possibly increasing the risk of loosing tolerance to previously tolerated foods. In our cases we made a diagnosis of a selective nut allergy, allowing to exclude only the offending foods and avoiding unnecessary diets.

## **COD. P025**

### **Asthma and vascular ring: what is Right?**

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A 6 years old girl, during a routine step test reported dyspnoea. In anamnesis, the mother noted low resistance to aerobic exercises. For these reasons, she performed examination like an echocardiogram that reported a normal heart, a skin prick-test that was negative and spirometry that reported a flattening in the expiratory phase of the flow/volume loop typical of tracheal obstruction. Due to the pathologic spirometry, she accomplished a bronchoscopy that demonstrated an extrinsic pulsatile tracheal compression before the carina, with consequent reduction of the tracheal diameter.

The CT angiography with contrast disclosed an aberrant left subclavian artery and a dextroposition of the aortic arch, that produced a reduction of the trachea's diameter.

Due to the dysphagia demonstrated after barium esophagogram, the girl did a corrective surgery.

Vascular ring is a congenital cardiac disease, constitute an embryological malformation where the aortic arch and its branches cause pressure at varying degrees on the trachea and/or esophagus. The incidence of dextroposition of the aortic arch is 0,1% and derives from the regression of the 4th and 6th left arches. Mean age of exordium is 5-12 months with cough, biphasic stridor, wheezing, tachypnoea, dysphagia, and recurrent airway infections.

Though the clinical presentation could simulate asthma, vascular rings have to be excluded: a flat of the flow/volume loop in the spirometry should advance the hypothesis of extrinsic tracheal compression. CT and MRI are the gold standard in diagnosis since they can evaluate vascular and airway anatomy before the corrective surgery in symptomatic patients.

**COD. P026**

**Assessment of Anthropometric Parameters in the Caucasian Prepubertal Children with Lactose Intolerance: a case-control study**

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**Introduction:** The health consequences of Lactose Intolerance (LI) are unclear. The aim of the study was to investigate the effect of LI on growth in children. **Materials and Methods:** Caucasian prepubertal children with LI (n=19, age 8.49±2.58y) were compared to healthy controls (n=20, age 7.53±2.11y). Test with oral lactose loading was performed to diagnose the LI. Gastrointestinal symptom scores were recorded and the anthropometric parameters were measured at baseline and after 1 year. All anthropometric data were converted in standard deviation scores (SDS). A linear multivariable regression model was used to evaluate the independent relationship of the reduction of symptom score on growth velocity while adjusting for potential confounders, sex and BMI. **Results:** No significant differences in growth velocity SDS (0.18±1.37 vs -0.42±1.26, p=0.46), as well as in height, weight and BMI SDS (p=0.43; p=0.62.; p=0.63, respectively) were found between two groups after 1 year of follow-up. The patients with LI were in lactose-elimination diet for a mean period of 7.16±3.44. A significant reduction of the symptom scores after diet was found (p<0,001). We found an independent association of the reduction of the symptom scores with a growth velocity SDS (p=0,037). **Conclusion:** After lactose-elimination diet our patients with LI showed similar growth velocity SDS as controls. The management of the subjects with LI might focus on the compliance to the lactose-elimination diet to reduce the gastrointestinal symptoms in order to preserve a normal growth. How would have been the growth velocity in the patients with LI without the lactose-elimination diet?

**COD. P027**

**Il riconoscimento degli insetti pungitori e corrispondenza con la scelta dell'estratto per l'immunoterapia specifica con veleno: una prospettiva pediatrica**

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**INTRODUZIONE** Dati della letteratura scientifica hanno mostrato che per pazienti adulti e medici risulta difficile riconoscere gli insetti pungitori, ad eccezione dell'ape.

**SCOPO DELLO STUDIO** Valutare, nei pazienti pediatrici con reazioni avverse a puntura di imenotteri, l'efficace riconoscimento dell'insetto pungitore - raggiunto attraverso un'approfondita anamnesi e l'utilizzo di una teca entomologica - e di studiarne la corrispondenza con la selezione dell'estratto per l'immunoterapia specifica con veleno (ITV) dopo workup diagnostico.

**MATERIALI E METODI** E' stata effettuata un'analisi retrospettiva della casistica riguardante bambini inviati all'Allergologia del nostro ospedale per reazioni avverse da puntura di imenotteri che hanno iniziato l'ITV nel periodo compreso tra il 1997 e il 2017. La scelta dell'estratto per l'ITV è stata determinata dopo un workup diagnostico secondo le linee guida EAACI.

**RISULTATI** Dopo il workup diagnostico, 69 pazienti (60 M, 87,0 %; 9 F, 13,0%) hanno iniziato un totale di 72 ITV per reazioni avverse da puntura di imenotteri. L'età media dei pazienti all'inizio dell'ITV è stata di 9 anni e 7 mesi. Abbiamo iniziato le seguenti ITV: 22 (30,6%) *Apis mellifera*, 24 (33,3%) *Vespula*, 21 (29,2%) *Polistes*, 5 (6,9%) *Vespa crabro*. Tre pazienti hanno effettuato una doppia ITV (*Vespula* e *Polistes*).

Bambini e genitori supportati da un allergologo pediatra sono riusciti a riconoscere l'insetto responsabile dello scatenamento di una reazione avversa in 58/69 casi (84,0%). In 56/69 pazienti (81,1%) e in tutti i pazienti in cui è stata effettuata ITV per *Vespa crabro*, vi è stata corrispondenza fra il riconoscimento dell'insetto pungitore e la scelta dell'estratto per l'ITV. *Vespula* e *Polistes* sono stati riconosciuti genericamente come "vespidi", evidenziando la difficoltà nella loro distinzione. In 2/69 pazienti (2,9%) non vi è stata corrispondenza fra il riconoscimento dell'insetto pungitore e l'estratto scelto per l'ITV: in entrambi i casi, in base al workup diagnostico è stata effettuata ITV per *Polistes* dopo apparente riconoscimento di *Vespa crabro* e *Apis mellifera*.

Bambini e genitori supportati da un allergologo pediatra non sono riusciti a riconoscere un insetto responsabile dello scatenamento di una reazione avversa in 11/69 casi (16,0%). Questi pazienti hanno effettuato ITV in base al risultato del workup diagnostico: 2 *Apis mellifera* (16,6%), 5 *Vespula* (41,7%), 5 *Polistes* (41,7%).

**CONCLUSIONI** Bambini e genitori, supportati da un allergologo pediatra, sono stati in grado di riconoscere l'insetto responsabile dello scatenamento di una reazione avversa nell'84,0% dei casi e, nell'81,1% dei casi, c'è stata una corrispondenza fra l'insetto pungitore riconosciuto e l'estratto scelto per l'ITV.

**COD. P028**

**The effects of Vitamin D Supplementation on Immune System in Children with Type 1 Diabetes and Respective Siblings**

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**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to assess a link between 25OHD levels and T lymphocyte subpopulations in children with T1D and their siblings (S) and to evaluate the impact of vitamin D supplementation.

**Patients and Methods:** 22 T1D, 33 S and 30 control subjects (CS), were enrolled. At baseline (T0) we evaluated the following biochemical and antibody markers, and genetic haplotypes: fasting glucose, glycated hemoglobin, 25OHD and T lymphocyte populations (Th17, Th17/IL17<sup>+</sup>, Treg, Treg-ICOS<sup>+</sup>). DR3/DQ2 and/or DR4/DQ8 were categorized as "at risk" (HLA<sup>+</sup>), DRB1\*1501/1502/DRB1\*07 as "no risk" (HLA<sup>-</sup>), other haplotypes as "undetermined" (HLA<sup>IND</sup>). T1D and S were supplemented with Cholecalciferol 1000 IU/die and revalued after 6 months (T1).

**Results:** Vitamin D hypovitaminosis was frequent (74,4%), with deficiency in 43% of the subjects. T1D and S presented Treg-ICOS<sup>+</sup> percentages and glucose levels (p<0.01) higher than CS. Th17/IL17<sup>+</sup> and Treg-ICOS<sup>+</sup> percentages (p<0.05) were higher in S HLA<sup>-</sup> than T1D; Treg-ICOS<sup>+</sup> title was higher both in S HLA<sup>-</sup> and in S HLA<sup>+</sup> than CS (p<0.01). At baseline, a significant increasing trend in Treg and Treg-ICOS<sup>+</sup> values (p<0.05) across 25OHD levels was observed. At T1, only T1D and S supplemented showed higher 25OHD levels, and lower Th17 and Treg-ICOS<sup>+</sup> percentages (p<0.01) than T0.

**Conclusion:** 25OHD serum levels seem to affect lymphocyte subpopulations according to its immunomodulating role. Furthermore, genetic imprinting might determine a different immunological response in siblings of individuals with T1D.

**COD. P029**

**Anaphylaxis to shellfish by inhalation of cooking vapor in a child**

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Crustacean allergy is more common in adults than in children, in which prevalence is less than 0.5 %. Allergic symptoms to seafood are usually triggered by ingestion, but can also occur by inhalation of aerosolized proteins during trapping, processing, and cooking. Seafood allergy by inhalation is commonly reported in occupational settings, usually associated with respiratory symptoms, whereas it is rarely reported in children or as a cause of anaphylaxis. Herein we describe the case of a 10-year-old girl referred to our allergy clinic for an acute episode of urticaria-angioedema of the face and trunk and difficulty breathing a few minutes after breathing in vapors from cooked shrimp, which resolved after administration of intramuscular epinephrine in the emergency department. The girl has a history of atopic dermatitis during early infancy and a few previous acute urticarial reactions involving the face after ingestion of crustaceans and molluscs, which lead to an elimination diet for these foods without having performed any allergy evaluation. Serum-specific IgE came positive for crab, lobster, oyster, Pen a 1 (shrimp tropomyosin and Der p 10 (house dust mites tropomyosin) confirming the diagnosis of IgE-mediated allergy to crustaceans and molluscs. Tropomyosin is the major invertebrate pan-allergen found in all edible crustacean and mollusc species with a highly conserved amino acid sequence, which can cause clinical and IgE cross-reactivity among different invertebrate allergen sources. Tropomyosin is highly heat-stable protein, which can even increase its allergenicity after heat treatment. This feature can explain allergic reaction by inhalation of crustacean cooking vapors.

**COD. P030**

**MEGLIO UN UOVO OGGI CHE UN'ALLERGIA DOMANI**

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Caso clinico: G., 13 mesi, accede in PS per iperemia ed edema del volto e degli arti, comparsi 15 minuti dopo l'assunzione di uovo cotto, precedentemente ingerito in 2 occasioni (1 cucchiaino di tuorlo bollito). All'EO presenta orticaria diffusa e dermatite atopica di grado lieve. Si somministra clorfenamina e metilprednisolone con remissione della sintomatologia. Su consiglio del curante G. ha effettuato uno svezzamento ritardato introducendo nel primo anno verdura, frutta, formaggio, carni bianche e uovo al 12° mese. Si eseguono esami ematici con dosaggio di IgE specifiche per uovo positive: albume 1.43 kUA/L, ovomucoide 1.04 kUA/L. Vista la clinica e i risultati degli esami ematici è stata posta diagnosi di allergia all'uovo.

Discussione: in letteratura numerosi studi si sono focalizzati sull'evitamento e/o introduzione ritardata degli allergeni alimentari nel bambino e addirittura nella madre durante gravidanza e allattamento, ipotizzando che questo potesse prevenire lo sviluppo di allergie alimentari (AA). Nel 2000 l'American Academy of Pediatrics ha suggerito di introdurre alimenti solidi dopo i 6 mesi di età nei bambini ad alto rischio di allergia e di ritardare l'introduzione dei cibi più allergizzanti a 1 anno per latte vaccino, 2 anni per uovo e 3 anni per arachidi, noci e pesce. Nel 2006 l'American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology ha esteso queste indicazioni ai neonati a basso rischio di allergia. Contrariamente ai precedenti, alcuni studi, tra cui i due trials randomizzati e controllati PETIT e EAT del 2016, hanno proposto di introdurre precocemente (dai 6 a i 9 mesi) i cibi allergizzanti per prevenire l'insorgenza di AA. Concludendo, l'alimentazione complementare a partire dal quinto mese, introducendo il maggior numero possibile di alimenti potenzialmente allergizzanti entro l'anno di vita sembra essere la strategia più efficace, sia nei bambini non a rischio che in quelli a rischio per familiarità allergica. Nel caso di G. non possiamo affermare che uno svezzamento precoce avrebbe potuto prevenire l'insorgenza di AA ma, in accordo con le recenti evidenze, raccomandiamo l'introduzione di tutti gli alimenti, allergizzanti inclusi, tra i 6 e i 12 mesi sia nei bambini a basso che ad alto rischio.

## COD. P031

### Allergia a crostacei nei pazienti sensibilizzati per Dermatofagoidi.

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**Introduzione:** La tropomiosina è l'allergene maggiore dei crostacei. L'iniziale sensibilizzazione può avvenire per via digestiva oppure per via inalatoria (acari o insetti) e può indurre cross-reattività verso altre tropomiosine. Infatti, la sensibilizzazione ai dermatofagoidi si riscontra in oltre il 90% degli allergici ai gamberi, percentuale attribuibile alla tropomiosina (Der p10) piuttosto che agli allergeni maggiori dell'acaro (Derp1, Derp2). Lo scopo di questo studio pilota è stato indagare la sensibilizzazione verso Derp10 in soggetti con sintomatologia respiratoria e Prick test positivi per dermatofagoidi; è stata inoltre valutata la prevalenza di sintomi di allergia per crostacei e/o molluschi nei soggetti con Derp10 positivo.

**Materiali e metodi:** Sono stati arruolati 121 bambini (età 1-17 anni; media 10,82±4,38 anni) con sintomatologia respiratoria (rinite persistente; 31 anche asmatici) e Prick test positivi per dermatofagoidi. Sono state analizzate le IgE specifiche per dermatofagoidi e i principali allergeni ricombinanti. Risultati: Der p1 e p2 sono risultati positivi nel 71,9% dei soggetti (87/121). L'8,3% dei pazienti (10/121) è risultato positivo solo al Derp10; l'anamnesi di 5 di questi 10 pazienti era caratterizzata da una reazione all'ingestione di crostacei (vomito e/o orticaria e/o angioedema periorale) con un valore medio di Derp10 maggiore rispetto ai restanti 5 soggetti (6,79±4,72 vs. 3,65±6,42).

**Discussione:** Secondo questo studio pilota, la prevalenza della sola sensibilizzazione al Derp10 in soggetti con Prick test positivi per dermatofagoidi è circa l'8,3%. È sempre necessario, in tali soggetti, cercare in anamnesi un'allergia (anche subclinica) verso crostacei e/o molluschi. Inoltre, prima di intraprendere un'immunoterapia per dermatofagoidi, è importante studiare la sensibilizzazione anche verso le tropomiosine: 1) per accertarsi che la positività sia dovuta agli allergeni maggiori dell'acaro e non alla tropomiosina, dandosi che il ruolo di Derp10 nella genesi dei sintomi respiratori è probabilmente scarso. In una popolazione di soggetti con rinite e/o asma sensibilizzati all'acaro, sebbene nel 44% dei soggetti vi fosse anche una sensibilizzazione al Derp10, non vi era differenza nella prevalenza dei sintomi tra Derp10 positivi e Derp10 negativi. 2) per conoscere il profilo di sensibilizzazione iniziale del paziente; è stata segnalata infatti l'induzione di allergia ai crostacei in pazienti sottoposti a immunoterapia precedentemente non sensibilizzati. Seppur con dati contrastanti, il sospetto di un legame tra l'immunoterapia e la sensibilizzazione per le tropomiosine è avvalorato dal riscontro dell'induzione della tolleranza verso i crostacei in soggetti precedentemente immunizzati e sottoposti a immunoterapia.

**COD. P032**

**Pneumomediastinum as first manifestation of asthma in an adolescent: a case report**

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**INTRODUCTION:** Pneumomediastinum is a rare entity in children. It may develop after an acute asthma exacerbation, with a prevalence between 0.3 and 5%. *Alternaria* is an aeroallergen and is known as a negative prognostic factor in childhood asthma.

**PATIENT AND METHODS:** It is a case report involving a 15-year-old adolescent, with an unremarkable past medical history, admitted with acute onset dyspnoea, cough and wheezing in the autumnal season. He was treated with oxygen, inhaled bronchodilators and intravenous corticosteroids. Blood examinations revealed a mild increase in white blood cells and C reactive protein. Due to the lack of clinical improvement, a chest X-ray and chest CT were performed showing a pneumomediastinum and bilateral pneumothorax with subcutaneous emphysema. In the next week, there was a gradual improvement of the clinical conditions of the patient and it was discharged with an inhalation maintenance treatment, based on low dose ICS/LABA. After 4 weeks, a spirometry was performed, revealing normal pulmonary function and the absence of bronchodilator reversibility. Skin prick testing was positive for grass and *Alternaria*. The patient continued the maintenance treatment with low dose ICS/LABA and was not subject to further asthma exacerbations.

**RESULTS:** The adolescent's asthma exacerbation has been probably caused by exposure to *Alternaria* spores, given the patient's positive skin test results, the timing of the exacerbation and the substantial negativity of inflammatory markers.

**CONCLUSION:** Allergic sensitivity to *Alternaria* is a negative prognostic factor in childhood asthma due to the demonstrated high increased risk for potentially fatal asthma exacerbation

**COD. P033**

**Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis manifesting as recurrent pneumonia in an adolescent: a case report**

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**INTRODUCTION:** Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA) is a pulmonary disorder caused by hypersensitivity to *Aspergillus Fumigatus*. The diagnosis is based on sensitization to *Aspergillus*, associated with clinical, immunological and radiological findings.

**PATIENT AND METHODS:** It is a case report concerning a 14-year-old adolescent with history of recurrent episodes of pneumonia involving the right lung, treated with antibiotic therapy. His history did not reveal further significant events. In the evaluation of the history of recurrent pneumonia, a laboratory and instrumental work-up was performed. It documented high total serum IgE and eosinophilic count and the presence of *Aspergillus Fumigatus* in the bronchial aspirate. Furthermore, asthma, cystic fibrosis, immunodeficiency and tuberculosis were ruled out. The diagnosis of ABPA was performed and the patient started a six-weeks treatment with Itraconazole. At follow-up, the culture of bronchial aspirate was negative; moreover, total serum IgE and eosinophilic count were lower, but not normal. The adolescent was never subjected to further episodes of pneumonia.

**DISCUSSION:** There is no single confirmatory test for the diagnosis of ABPA. In most cases, the diagnosis is suspected in patients with predisposing conditions (asthma or cystic fibrosis) and a sensitization to *Aspergillus* antigens in the proper clinical and radiographic context. About follow-up, serial measurements of serum total IgE are useful: a decrease of 35 percent is considered a good therapeutic response.

**CONCLUSION:** ABPA without asthma or cystic fibrosis is a rare occurrence. Nevertheless, it has to be considered in the evaluation of recurrent pneumonia in paediatric age.

## COD. P034

### Allergia a Ciclosporina e Tacrolimus endovena: quali alternative?

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Ciclosporina e Tacrolimus endovena sono farmaci comunemente utilizzati nella prevenzione della malattia acuta da rigetto in pazienti sottoposti a trapianto. Riportiamo il caso di un bambino di 8 anni, affetto da  $\beta$ -Talassemia major, sottoposto a trapianto allogenico di cellule staminali ematopoietiche. La sua storia clinica precedente è negativa, e non ha mai presentato allergie a farmaci. Per la prevenzione della malattia acuta da rigetto, il bambino è stato trattato con Ciclosporina endovena; dopo 10 minuti dall'inizio dell'infusione, ha presentato dolore addominale, agitazione, sudorazione, pomfi cutanei, ipotensione e desaturazione. Nel sospetto di reazione anafilattica, l'infusione è stata subito interrotta, e sono stati somministrati fluidi ev, metilprednisolone e clorfenamina ev, con risoluzione dei sintomi. Il giorno seguente la Ciclosporina è stata sostituita con il Tacrolimus endovena, ma 10 minuti dopo l'inizio dell'infusione il bambino ha nuovamente presentato dolore addominale e comparsa di pomfi. Si è quindi somministrato metilprednisolone e clorfenamina ev con risoluzione dei sintomi. Alla luce delle segnalazioni riportate in letteratura, è stata ipotizzata ipersensibilità all'olio di ricino poliossile (Cremophor EL), un eccipiente emulsionante contenuto nella formulazione endovenosa sia della ciclosporina che del tacrolimus, ma non in quella orale. Pertanto nei giorni seguenti è stata somministrata la formulazione orale di ciclosporina, che è stata ben tollerata. L'olio di ricino poliossile è contenuto come emulsionante in altri farmaci iniettivi, quali chemioterapici (paclitaxel), vitamina k, diazepam e altri. Nel nostro paziente non era documentata precedente assunzione di tali farmaci. La prima reazione allergica alla ciclosporina ev è stata descritta in un paziente sottoposto a trapianto renale nel 1984. Il ruolo dell'olio di ricino poliossile è stato subito ipotizzato, vista la tolleranza alla formulazione orale di ciclosporina non contenente questo eccipiente manifestata dalla maggior parte dei pazienti, ed è stato confermato poi da successivi case report in letteratura. Sono descritti in letteratura due casi di reazione allergica alla soluzione orale di ciclosporina: entrambi i pazienti hanno presentato sintomi allergici in seguito all'assunzione, ma hanno tollerato la formulazione in capsule, facendo ipotizzare il coinvolgimento di un emulsionante oleoso contenuto nella soluzione orale (strutturalmente simile al Cremophor EL) e non nelle capsule. Il nostro paziente ha comunque tollerato sia la formulazione in capsule che la soluzione orale di ciclosporina, Sandimmun<sup>®</sup>, che non contiene olio di ricino poliossile. Questa formulazione sembra la più sicura e tollerata per la somministrazione in pazienti che hanno presentato in precedenza reazioni allergiche sia alla formulazione endovenosa che alla soluzione orale.

## **COD. P035**

### **Allergic multimorbidity**

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The prevalence of allergic diseases in children has been increasing over the past decades, representing the most frequent chronic diseases of childhood and adolescence. Although they are often treated as different clinical entities, there is enough evidence to consider them as an "allergic comorbidity". The aim of this study was to analyze allergic multimorbidity, define their clinical phenotypes and search for common risk factors. We identified 301 patients diagnosed with various allergic diseases (170 males and 131 females, 0-17 years), retrieving data about personal history, environment, features of allergic symptoms, skin prick test and total IgE levels. A significative percentage of patients showed a positive first degree familiarity, which stands as a strong determinant for the onset of allergic multimorbidity (83.1% of subjects with positive familiarity). Asthma was the most often associated pathology with positive familiarity (69.8%) and with other atopic diseases (88.4%), each one associated in similar percentages. Recurrent exposure to indoor allergens has been frequently reported (93%). Positive SPT for inhalant allergens showed remarkably higher values in patients with rhinitis and asthma, whereas they did not appear significant in patients with urticaria. The most frequently identified allergen by SPT in asthma and rhinitis was Birch. Total value of IgE was statistically significant only in association with rhinitis. This study identified common mechanisms underlying the development of allergic multimorbidity and it may represent a starting point to investigate the evolution of different clinical phenotypes over time and monitor the possible shift from a mono- to a multi-morbidity and vice versa.

**COD. P036**

**Selective IgA deficiency as a negative prognostic factor in childhood asthma: a case report**

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**INTRODUCTION:** Selective IgA deficiency (sIgAD) is the most common congenital immunodeficiency in childhood age. It represents the comorbidity of multiple diseases, such as asthma; this diagnosis can require different treatment strategies.

**PATIENT AND METHODS:** It is a case report involving a 10-year-old girl, who had a diagnosis of allergic asthma (skin prick testing positive for grass) at the age of 6. Despite the maintenance treatment with medium dose ICS/LABA, she was subjected to multiple exacerbations of asthma during the winter season, triggered by almost every episode of upper respiratory infection. On the other hand, the patient was not subjected to asthma exacerbation during pollen season. Searching a comorbidity for her poorly-controlled asthma, a laboratory work-up revealed that IgA serum levels were undetectable (<0.06 g/L); moreover, IgE serum level were low (119 kU/L). The child was discharged with the same maintenance treatment with medium dose ICS/LABA and the recommendation to start antibiotic therapy as soon as an upper respiratory infection occurs. Using this strategy, the patient was not subjected to asthma exacerbation in the last winter.

**RESULTS:** sIgAD is a negative prognostic factor in childhood asthma. A defective mucosal barrier due to deficiency of IgA might play a role in asthma exacerbations.

**CONCLUSION:** No specific additional treatment is required for asthma related to sIgAD. The only further recommendation is based on a quick antibiotic treatment in order to treat the asthma attack and prevent long-term pulmonary damage induced by recurrent asthma exacerbations.

**COD. P037**

**AQUAGENIC URTICARIA: CASE REPORT**

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In this report we describe a case of a 2-year old girl with aquagenic urticaria.

Her parents described the presence of hives after prolonged exposure to sea and pool water (for at least 20 minutes), mostly localized in the trunk and upper limbs. Lesions were described as small (1-3 mm) with 1-3 cm of erythematous flares. Hives resolved spontaneously within 30-60 minutes. Urticaria was not associated to systemic symptoms. The child didn't present hives after physical exercise or exposure to cold temperature. She didn't show other allergic symptoms such as atopic dermatitis, rhinoconjunctivitis, or asthma. Family history was positive for food allergy (father with shrimp's allergy). When she came to our attention, her physical examination was negative. Skin prick test for common aeroallergen and food allergen were negative. Blood tests (CBC, electrolytes, glycemia, bilirubin, celiac screening, thyroid, liver and kidney function, EST, CRP, C3, C4, C1-esterase inhibitor, immunoglobulins, ANA, anti-DNA) were negative. In order to exclude an inducible urticaria, challenge tests were performed: dermographism, pressure test, exposure to cold, hot and room temperature water, with only the last one being positive.

Conclusion: Aquagenic urticaria is an unusual symptom in preschool children. When present, an etiology secondary to systemic causes should be excluded while other physical trigger should also be evaluated, in order to establish an adequate and tailored follow-up schedule.

**COD. P038**

**Omalizumab nell'Aspergilloso Broncopolmonare Allergica in Fibrosi Cistica: un caso esemplificativo**

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**Introduzione:** L'aspergilloso broncopolmonare allergica (ABPA) è una patologia caratterizzata da una risposta da ipersensibilità mediata da IgE a livello delle vie aeree nei confronti di alcuni antigeni del fungo *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Le IgE hanno un ruolo predominante in questo processo infiammatorio, causando la degranolazione dei mastociti, con successivo rilascio di istamina e leucotrieni. Circa il 10% dei pazienti con fibrosi cistica (FC) possono sviluppare l'ABPA, che si manifesta con wheezing, tosse, incremento delle riacutizzazioni e peggioramento del reperto ostruttivo, fino a comportare un deterioramento globale della funzionalità polmonare. Il trattamento dell'ABPA è di solito eseguito con corticosteroidi (CS) ed antifungini sistemici, in caso di CS-dipendenza è descritta in letteratura la possibilità di utilizzare l'omalizumab (anticorpo monoclonale anti IgE).

**Case report:** R. affetta da FC, all'età di 14 anni ha ricevuto diagnosi di ABPA che si è manifestata con frequenti episodi di wheezing, tosse stizzosa, dispnea da sforzo, calo del FEV<sub>1</sub> (da 120% a 85% in 1 anno) associati ad elevazione delle IgE totali (valore medio: 1884 kU/L) e specifiche per *A. fumigatus* RAST (valore medio: 41 kUA/L). R. è stata trattata per circa 2 anni con CS ed itraconazolo per os, che hanno determinato la stabilizzazione della funzione polmonare ma scarso controllo dei sintomi (minimo 2 episodi/settimana di wheezing e dispnea) e la dipendenza da CS (10 mg al giorno di prednisone come dose minima di mantenimento) con comparsa di sindrome di Cushing iatrogena (facies lunaris, intolleranza glucidica, ipertensione lieve, irsutismo, irregolarità mestruale, insonnia). Per tale motivo a 16 anni viene inserito in terapia l'omalizumab s.c. (600 mg ogni 15 giorni). Con l'introduzione dell'omalizumab (attualmente 27 mesi di terapia) R. ha presentato: riduzione dei sintomi broncostruttivi (< 1 crisi di wheezing/settimana), stabilità della funzione polmonare (periodo senza omalizumab: FEV<sub>1</sub> medio 89% - periodo in terapia con omalizumab: FEV<sub>1</sub> medio 88%), minore necessità di CS con progressivo decalage della dose (attualmente 2,5 mg prednisone a giorni alterni) e conseguente risoluzione dei sintomi CS-dipendenti.

**Conclusioni:** Nel caso sopradescritto l'omalizumab è stata una valida alternativa per mantenere la stabilità della funzione polmonare. Questo trattamento può essere preso in considerazione nei pazienti con FC e ABPA che ricadono e non rispondono alla terapia con CS o hanno seri effetti collaterali correlati al CS.

## **COD. P039**

### **Un caso di Orticaria vasculitica**

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L'orticaria vasculitica è una rara forma di orticaria. Inconsueta in età pediatrica, si distingue dall'orticaria classica per la persistenza degli elementi pomfoidi per oltre 24h e per la possibile assenza del prurito. Istologicamente si caratterizza per la presenza di segni di vasculite leucocitoclastica a carico dei capillari e delle venule post-capillari. L'eziologia è prevalentemente idiopatica, più raramente secondaria ad assunzione di farmaci, patologie infiammatorie, autoimmunitarie o neoplastiche. Diversi possono essere i trattamenti farmacologici: antistaminici, antiinfiammatori, antimalarici, corticosteroidi, immunosoppressori. Controversa è invece l'efficacia dell'omalizumab.

Presentiamo il caso di P.D. bambino di 3 anni.

ANAMNESI REMOTA: Nulla di rilevante da segnalare.

ANAMNESI PATOLOGICA PROSSIMA: Giungeva alla nostra osservazione nel Settembre 2017 per la ricorrenza da 3 mesi di manifestazioni eritemato-pomfoidi diffuse, con andamento a pousses. Le riaccensioni erano spesso associate all'evenienza di infezioni respiratorie anche banali e talora dolorabilità alle caviglie (trattata con FANS). Praticava terapia a cicli con antistaminico e betametasona.

A Gennaio 2019 D. presentava una riaccensione particolarmente severa delle manifestazioni cutanee e anche per la presenza di zoppia, veniva ricoverato.

ESAME OBIETTIVO: Lesioni orticarioidi con aspetto a carta geografica ed alone eritemato-violaceo al tronco, arti e inguine. Angioedema palpebrale all'occhio destro e imbibizione alla palpebra sinistra. Modesta succulenza a carico delle articolazioni della caviglia (dx> sx) con eritema e termotatto aumentato. Nel corso della degenza gli esami ematochimici mostravano valori normali per: emocromo, complemento, esami routinari, profilo tiroideo, elettroforesi sieroproteica, esame delle urine. Risultavano positivi gli indici di flogosi (PCR 2xN). Negativo appariva il titolo anticorpale di Chlamydia pneumoniae e Mycoplasma pneumoniae ed il tampone faringo-tonsillare. Il titolo degli ANA (speckled 1:160) risultava non significativo.

Alla luce del quadro clinico e laboratoristico veniva proseguita terapia con antistaminico per os e avviato trattamento con metilprednisolone ev, poi sostituito con prednisone per os con successivo decalage, per un totale di 8 giorni fino alla risoluzione completa della sintomatologia alla dimissione.

A distanza di 6 settimane dal ricovero D. evidenziava ancora una completa remissione clinica, era prescritta la prosecuzione della terapia antistaminica per ulteriori 4 settimane.

CONCLUSIONI: La variante vasculitica dell'orticaria si differenzia dalla classica per la più frequente concomitanza di manifestazioni extracutanee. Va pertanto sempre presa in considerazione la possibilità che essa costituisca l'epifenomeno di ulteriori patologie.

Nel nostro caso, associato ad artrite, un trattamento protratto con corticosteroidi ed antistaminici si è rivelato efficace nell'indurre la persistente remissione delle manifestazioni cutanee e dei sintomi sistemici.

Bibliografia

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## **COD. P040**

### **Kawasaki Disease in a 57 days old infant: a case report**

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Kawasaki Disease (KD) is a febrile vasculitic syndrome that involves small and medium-sized vessels, leading cause of acquired heart disease in children between 6 months and 5 years of age, less common under 6 months and extremely rare under 3 months. The diagnosis of KD is based on clinical criteria and treatment with IVIG has been shown to reduce the incidence of coronary artery aneurysms from 25% to less than 5%. However several studies show that the use of steroids in the acute phase of KD improved coronary artery abnormalities. We describe the case of a 57 days old male with fever, irritability and poor feeding. At admission the laboratory tests was normal except for elevated values of CRP and ESR. 48 hours later, he presented maculo-papular rash, mucositis and non-purulent conjunctivitis. At the sixth day of illness, in the suspicion of KD, IVIG was administered with defervescence and improvement of general clinical conditions. 11 days after the onset of disease he presented periungueal desquamation of the digits. Therapy with aspirin was performed for 8 weeks. The echocardiografic controls did not show changes in the coronary arteries for six months after disease. This case shows the importance of considering the diagnosis of KD, although rare in the first two months of life, in a newborn with persistent fever unresponsive to antipyretics and antibiotics; an early diagnosis and an appropriate treatment with IVIG and aspirin can result in a resolution of symptoms and in a decreased risk of cardiac complications.

## **COD. P041**

### **Strict cow's milk-free diet is effective to treat oral immunotherapy-related eosinophilic esophagitis**

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Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) is a chronic inflammatory disease of the esophagus due to an immunoallergic pathogenesis. Therapy includes antigen-free diet and topical steroid treatment. EoE has been described as a rare complication of food oral immunotherapy (OIT). We herein report the case of a 15-year-old boy who developed EoE after cow's milk OIT. He was diagnosed with cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA) at the age of 3 months. He underwent a milk OIT at the age of 10 due to persistence of milk allergy. Build-up phase went on slowly due to recurrent reactions characterized by abdominal pain, oral itching and transient skin rash. Nevertheless, at the age of 12, he managed to achieve a free diet, with daily ingestion of about 200 mL of fresh milk. Three years later, he began experiencing night-time epigastric pain and heartburn. An eight-week treatment with high-dose proton pump inhibitors was performed three times, failing to induce persistent remission of symptoms. Thus, he underwent an esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGDS) which showed macroscopic and histological signs of EoE ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/high power field). At the 12 months-follow-up, after a cow's milk-free diet that allowed the ingestion of baked milk products, he achieved clinical, but not histological, remission. No pharmacological treatment was administered. Therefore, a strict cow's milk-free diet was started. A second follow-up was performed 12 months later, showing persistence of clinical remission, and EGDS revealed a complete macroscopic and histological resolution. Strict elimination diet, without any pharmacological treatment, is effective to treat milk OIT-related EoE.

**COD. P042**

**ON A CASE OF MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY (MCS): A YOUNG MOTHER WITH PHOBIA OF PERFUMES**

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**Introduction**

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) is a rare disease with extremely various clinical manifestations. The symptoms, highly damaging the quality of life, are those of allergic type, hypersensitivity to odors and neurological manifestations.

**Patients and Methods**

We illustrate the case regarding one 40 years old mother coming to our Allergy Ambulatory with her daughter for asthma. She had phobic attitude in front of every kind of smell. Negative pathological history. At age of 29, diagnosis of chronic bronchial asthma. After three years from diagnosis, she begins to present episodes of sensitivity to perfumes characterized by dyspnoea and chest tightness, first episode after contact with sanitizing wipes and second three years later, after exposure to air freshener. After three years, a further episode of sensitivity to amuchina. After two years, an episode after exposure to solar milk, following which the sensitivity has extended to whatever perfume including those of personal care products. During episodes no therapy for asthma was performed.

**Results**

Skin allergy tests and patches negative for perfumes, foods and inhalants except for nickel. At age of 40, finally the diagnosis of MCS by genetic test from a Berlin laboratory. Having encountered in the analyzes presence of metals in addition to a low value of intracellular ATP, therapy was recommended with Coenzyme Q, Folic acid, Zeolite for a month and then Chlorella for 2 months, repetition of analyzes after four months of therapy, with feedback one month from the beginning.

**Conclusion**

Actually we don't know the results of therapy because it is still ongoing. The peculiarity of this case lies in the abnormal periodicity of episodes, so the diagnosis was particularly challenging.

**COD. P043**

**Studio di comparazione tra due metodiche per il dosaggio della proteina fecale in patologie gastrointestinali**

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Introduzione: la calprotectina è una proteina antimicrobica e antimicotica costituita da una catena polipeptidica pesante in grado di legarsi al calcio, presente nei macrofagi, neutrofili e monociti. La sua concentrazione fecale correla con il quadro istologico ed endoscopico nei pazienti affetti da malattie infiammatorie intestinali. Risulta un marker utile a livello diagnostico in un grande numero di disordini gastroenterologici.

Scopo del lavoro: valutare l'utilità clinica in funzione della patologia del paziente considerando il coinvolgimento intestinale diretto e indiretto e l'effettiva utilità di questo marcatore nel follow-up clinico del paziente.

Metodi: sono stati usati due kit diagnostici prodotti da Eurospital: Calprest NG (range 0-3000 mg/kg) che sfrutta l'utilizzo di anticorpi policlonali diretti contro la calprotectina la cui curva di calibrazione si basa sull'uso della Calprotectina ricombinante umana e un test rapido (Calfast TX range 0-1005 mg/kg) che sfrutta la tecnologia immunocromatografica applicata ad un supporto solido su cui viene dispensato il campione. Nel test immunoenzimatico (Calprest NG) valori < 50 mg/kg sono considerati negativi, valori compresi tra 50 a 200 sono classificate in tre classi di positività (50-100 bassa; 100-200 media; >200 altamente positiva). Invece per il test rapido valori < 70 mg/kg sono considerati negativi. Sono stati arruolati 576 pazienti e data la variabilità delle patologie diagnosticate si è deciso di suddividere i pazienti in 4 macro-aree: 1. Infiammazioni intestinali (Pz. N. 331), 2. Disturbi funzionali (Pz. N. 114), 3. Altre infiammazioni (Pz. N. 90), 4. Alterazioni emodinamiche (Pz. N. 41). Per la valutazione della calprotectina durante il follow-up sono stati analizzati 89 pazienti. La macroarea 1 presenta valori medi nettamente positivi (374 mg/Kg) anche se emergono valori superiori al cut-off di riferimento anche nelle altre aree indagate nello studio (macroarea 2: 105 mg/kg; macroarea 3: 190 mg/kg; macroarea 4: 140 mg/kg). L'analisi dei risultati del follow-up riporta valori nettamente in discesa e in tempi brevi nei pazienti ricoverati, mentre la riduzione dei valori della calprotectina nei pazienti ambulatori risulta lenta e con valori entro i sei mesi ancora elevati con ampie oscillazioni.

Conclusione: L'analisi dei risultati ottenuti mostra l'utilità della valutazione della calprotectina in diverse condizioni patologiche anche se i livelli medi più alti emergono nei pazienti con infiammazione intestinale a coinvolgimento diretto. Durante il follow-up clinico sia la lenta riduzione che le ampie oscillazioni osservate rendono questo biomarcatore utile nella capacità di evidenziare riacutizzazione della sintomatologia del paziente e/o remissione.

**COD. P044**

**HHV7-related acute encephalopathy. Immunological implications and clinical features in a series of pediatric patients.**

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Introduction. Primary Human herpesvirus 7 (HHV7) infection is almost ubiquitous, and mostly asymptomatic in children, in whom it can present as exanthema subitum. Little is known on the clinical relevance of HHV7 neuroinvasion in immunocompetent children. Patients. This series describes 10 patients (median age 10 years), with acute encephalopathy in whom HHV7-DNA was detected on cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) by RT-PCR. Results. All patients were healthy before the acute event. 6/10 patients had meningoencephalitis, two of which with acute disseminated encephalomyelitis; 4/10 showed acute neuropsychiatric symptoms. None of them presented the classical skin rash, but five had fever. CSF HHV7 copies ranged between 20 and 3,500 copies/mL (median 66 copies/mL) and mean HHV7 CSF/blood ratio was 0.88. 4/10 patients had pleocytosis on CSF. Polyclonal bands on CSF and sera were found in 5/7 patients, one patient had intratecal IgG synthesis. Total Ig, IgG-subclasses, and lymphocyte populations were within normal ranges in all patients. CSF/sera IL-17 dosages were performed in two patients, resulting in the upper range-limits. Outcome was favourable in all children, although 3/10 had minor neurological and cognitive sequelae. Conclusion. HHV7 can determine neuroinvasion in immunocompetent children, leading to acute encephalopathy. Blood-brain barrier damage and high CSF/blood viral copies ratio correlated with a more severe presentation. Little is known about the role of cytokine pattern alterations during HHV7 encephalitis. We speculate on the importance of immune-mediated mechanisms in provoking clinical features. Future perspectives will investigate cytokine profiles and the role of the immune system in the pathogenesis of HHV7-related encephalopathy.

## COD. P045

### Identification of gut inflammation and autoimmunity in murine models carrying Rag1 hypomorphic mutations

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Hypomorphic Recombination Activating Gene 1 (RAG1) mutations result in residual T- and B-cell development in both humans and mice and have been found in patients presenting with delayed-onset combined immune deficiency with granulomas and/or autoimmunity (CID-G/AI). Recent studies have shed light on how hypomorphic RAG1 mutations alter the primary repertoire of T and B cells, but less is known about their effect on immune dysregulation in targeted organs. In order to investigate the role of these mutations in determining intestinal disease, we set out to evaluate gut immunity and microbiota interplay in Rag1 mutant hypomorphic mice. We evaluated two mouse models carrying homozygous Rag1 mutations (R972Q and R972W), corresponding to human mutations described in patients. On the basis of in vitro studies, the R972Q mutation has demonstrated a moderate effect on Rag1 protein stability while the R972W mutation resulted highly disruptive. Analysis of intestinal pathology in Rag1 mutant mice (NIAID animal protocol LCIM 6E) revealed different degrees of spontaneous colitis, with the most severe inflammatory infiltrate observed in mice carrying the most disruptive mutation, R972W. A significant increase in activated CD44<sup>hi</sup>CD62L<sup>#</sup>CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells expressing the gut homing receptor  $\alpha$ 4 $\beta$ 7 was observed in mesenteric lymph nodes (MLNs) of both mutant strains, and was especially prominent in R972W mutant mice. Additionally, the proportion of MLN CD4<sup>+</sup> T regulatory cells was increased in both mouse models. Finally, MLN of mutant mice contained a high number of myeloid cells (CD11b<sup>+</sup>) along with a decreased number of B220<sup>+</sup> B cells, and these abnormalities were also more prominent in R972W than in R972Q mice. In summary, we have shown that Rag1 mutant hypomorphic mice present with different degrees of inflammatory bowel disease, with the mouse model carrying the most disruptive mutation presenting with the most severe phenotype.

## COD. P046

### High throughput sequencing reveals repertoire restriction of Treg and CD8+ T cells in APDS1 patients.

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Introduction: Activated phosphoinositide 3-kinase  $\delta$  syndrome type 1 (APDS1) is a CID characterized by increased susceptibility to infections, lymphoproliferation and autoimmunity. Patients display T cell abnormalities, including increased numbers of memory T cells and T follicular helper cells (Tfh), reduction of naïve T cells and impaired T regulatory cell (T<sub>reg</sub>) function. We hypothesized that the increased PI3K activity in APDS1 patients would lead to FOXO1 degradation and result in perturbations of the T cell repertoire. Methods: High throughput sequencing was used to study composition and diversity of T-cell receptor  $\alpha$  (TRA) and T-cell receptor  $\beta$  (TRB) repertoire in sorted T<sub>reg</sub>, Tfh, conventional CD4<sup>+</sup> (T<sub>conv</sub>), and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells from 4 patients with PIK3CD GOF mutations and healthy controls. Results: T<sub>reg</sub> and CD8<sup>+</sup> cells of patients with PIK3CD GOF mutations show reduced TRA and TRB repertoire diversity. No repertoire restriction was detected in Tfh, T<sub>conv</sub> cells from the same patients. The TRB repertoire of T<sub>reg</sub> and CD8<sup>+</sup> cells was enriched for the presence of hydrophobic amino acids at positions 6 and 7 of the CDR3, a biomarker of self-reactivity. Conclusion: These data demonstrate that the T-cell repertoire of patients with APDS1 is characterized by a molecular signature that may contribute to the increased rate of autoimmunity associated with this condition. Furthermore, our results support the notion that PI3K pathway is a key regulator of T<sub>reg</sub> cell development and homeostasis in humans.

**COD. P047**

**Autoimmune Haemolytic Anemia in a patient affected by WHIM (Warts, Hypogammaglobulinemia, Infections, Myelokathexis) syndrome.**

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10yo girl, WHIM Syndrome, CXCR4 mutation. History: preterm, Tetralogy of Fallot surgically treated, persistent panleukopenia, irregular thrombocytopenia, recurrent respiratory infections. At 8yo she presented with severe anemia (Hb 4.6g/dL) after a recent respiratory infection. Coombs test and anti-red cells antibodies were positive, configuring an autoimmune event. High dose steroids (Methylprednisolone 2mg/Kg/die) and IVIg were administered for 5 days with good response. Steroid therapy was continued for 4weeks and progressively weaned in 6 months. At 10yo she developed a second episode of autoimmune haemolytic anemia (Hb 4.4g/dL, positive indirect and direct Coombs test). High dose steroids and IVIg were administered, with no good response (Hb 3.4g/dL) so an erythrocytes transfusion was needed and steroid and IVIg dosage was increased (Methylprednisolone 3mg/Kg/die, IVIg 500mg/kg/die). Steroid therapy was progressively weaned with good response. She's currently on IVIg replacement therapy, antibacterial and antiviral prophylaxes. WHIM Syndrome is a rare primary immunodeficiency caused by gain-of-function CXCR4 mutation, which produces mature neutrophils retention in the bone marrow. Clinic phenotype is variable.<sup>1,2</sup> To the best of our knowledge this is the first reported case of autoimmune haemolytic anemia in WHIM syndrome. An association with type1 diabetes is described.<sup>2</sup> The interaction CXCR4-CXCL12 is important in the immune regulation, so we can assume that there could be a relation between CXCR4 mutation and the development of autoimmune diseases.

1.DeClercq Ant.Chem.Chemotherapy2019Vol.27:1-8

2.Dotta et al.J.All.Clin.Imm2019S2213-2198(19)30117-5

3.Takaya et al.2009.10(7):484-6v

**COD. P048**

**UN CASO DI INSUFFICIENZA RESPIRATORIA DA PLEUROPOLMONITE IN PAZIENTE ASMATICO**

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L'attacco asmatico acuto è una condizione frequente in pediatria, che determina ricorso a prestazioni ospedaliere di emergenza/urgenza. Può essere scatenato da infezioni, allergeni, irritanti, farmaci, stress, attività fisica o ciclo mestruale. L'evento acuto può anche presentarsi in pazienti già in trattamento. Il mancato controllo della patologia, dato comune in età pediatrica, può determinare complicanze anche fatali.

Caso clinico: C.K., F., 9 anni. Familiarità per asma allergico e patologie respiratorie croniche. In APR vari episodi di broncopatia. Giunge in PS per attacco acuto d'asma, non responsivo a terapia inalatoria short-acting, ossigeno in maschera facciale e steroidi sistemici. All'ingresso: tachidispnea, impegno della muscolatura respiratoria accessoria, lieve obnubilamento del sensorio. SpO<sub>2</sub> 88%, FC 120 bpm. EGA in aa: pH 7,4, pCO<sub>2</sub> 30mmHg, pO<sub>2</sub> 39mmHg, BE-4,9. EOT: gemiti espiratori, rantoli a piccole bolle bilaterali. Es. laboratorio: leucocitosi neutrofila, sierologia e PCR per virus respiratori neg., tampone faringeo pos. per Enterococco. Test di Mantoux e QuantiferonTB negativi. RX torace: opacità parenchimale basale sin. e pleuro-parenchimale basale dx. , valutazione cardiologica nei limiti. Iniziava quindi HFNC a FiO<sub>2</sub> 0,8, antibioticoterapia con ceftriaxone+claritromicina, aminofillina e metilprednisone ev, nutrizione parenterale per il grave impegno respiratorio. Con la risoluzione del quadro radiologico, si è assistito ad un progressivo miglioramento della sintomatologia asmatica con graduale risposta alla terapia inalatoria e svezzamento da O<sub>2</sub>.

Conclusioni: In presenza di attacco d'asma acuto non responsivo a terapia farmacologica, è opportuno escludere patologie sottostanti che possano alterare il quadro clinico: nel caso esposto, l'interessamento pleuro-parenchimale bilaterale ha reso il trattamento clinico complesso. Il riconoscimento precoce ed il trattamento di eventuali comorbidità migliora sia la risposta terapeutica che la prognosi. La prevalenza della componente infiammatoria su quella bronco-costrittiva può giustificare l'inefficacia della terapia broncodilatatoria. Risulta doveroso definire il quadro asmatico dopo la completa risoluzione dell'evento infettivo, attraverso valutazioni pneumologiche ed allergologiche.

## **COD. P049**

### **Exercise-Induced Asthma as the tip of the iceberg: a case of wheat-dependent exercise-induced anaphylaxis**

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A 9-year-old male (T.L.) presented two episodes of acute and severe asthmatic attacks during physical activity. The child presented cough, dyspnea, pallor and temporary loss of consciousness for 30 seconds while playing tennis. On the first occasion, he was treated with inhaled salbutamol and corticosteroids. His physician prescribed salbutamol before physical activities and set the diagnosis of exercise-induced asthma. During the second attack, he was transported to our emergency room because of the severity and slow recovery that needed Adrenaline administration. Supplementary investigations revealed negative asthma tests and positive IgE for wheat  $\omega$ -5gliadin (Tri a 19). The child revealed that in both occasions he had ingested wheat products before physical activity. In fact he was advised previously to increase consumption of wheat before celiac disease tests prescribed by the physician after finding the disease in siblings. The discharge diagnosis was wheat-dependent exercise-induced anaphylaxis (WDEIA).

WDEIA is a peculiar form of wheat allergy where a food-intake alone does not induce any symptom. However, allergic symptoms are elicited by exercise after ingestion of wheat products and depend on the amount of food ingested. In some cases, cofactors are required for developing a reaction. Noted cofactors include aspirin, cold or warm environment, high humidity, atopic dermatitis, alcohol intake, menstrual cycle. Wheat  $\omega$ -5gliadin and a high molecular weight-glutein subunit have been identified as major allergens in conventional WDEIA.

**COD. P050**

**SENSIBILIZZAZIONE ALLA TROPOMIOSINA: DALL'ACARO AL GAMBERO E VICEVERSA**

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Introduzione:

L'allergia ai crostacei rappresenta una delle principali allergie alimentari, con incidenza in costante aumento. Studi epidemiologici segnalano una prevalenza del 2% nella popolazione mondiale, determinando fino al 42% delle reazioni anafilattiche nella popolazione adulta e fino al 12% in quella pediatrica. L'elevato tasso di cross-reattività si verifica non soltanto tra le diverse specie di crostacei ma anche con altre famiglie animali. L'avvento negli ultimi anni della diagnostica molecolare nel campo allergologico ha permesso di meglio comprendere i meccanismi immunologici che portano a questa cross-reattività e alla sensibilizzazione per i crostacei. L'allergene più studiato in questo contesto è la tropomiosina, una proteina che regola la contrazione della muscolatura striata e che rappresenta l'allergene maggiore di crostacei e molluschi. La sua sequenza aminoacidica è altamente conservata, con una concordanza pari al 91-100% tra le diverse specie di crostacei e molluschi. Molto elevata è anche la concordanza con la tropomiosina dell'acaro della polvere (81%) e dello scarafaggio (82%), cosa che spiega l'alto tasso di cross-reattività tra queste diverse classi di allergeni.

Caso clinico:

Il caso illustrato riguarda una ragazza di 15 anni giunta alla nostra osservazione per lieve rinite ostruttiva, prevalente nei mesi invernali, e un recente episodio di angioedema palpebrale e labiale associato a comparsa di rash orticarioide diffuso e difficoltà respiratoria dopo ingestione accidentale di gamberetti. In anamnesi era presente un pregresso episodio avvenuto qualche anno prima. Da allora la ragazza aveva seguito dieta di esclusione per crostacei e molluschi. I prick test cutanei mostravano una lieve sensibilizzazione per l'acaro della polvere, risultando negativi per gli altri principali allergeni inalanti e per quelli alimentari, perciò è stata posta la diagnosi provvisoria di "Rinite ostruttiva allergica e probabile anafilassi lieve dopo ingestione di gamberetti". Per meglio caratterizzare la sintomatologia sono stati ricercati gli allergeni ricombinanti dell'acaro e del gambero, con negatività di Der p 1 e Der p 2 e positività di Der p 10 e Pen a 1, segno di una probabile allergia vera alimentare al gamberetto e di una allergia "falsa" all'acaro della polvere.

Conclusioni:

Il caso sopra descritto dimostra come la sensibilizzazione all'acaro della polvere possa essere secondaria a sensibilizzazione primaria a crostacei, come già riportato in letteratura, nonostante studi di inibizione all'immunoblot descrivano la progressione opposta come più probabile e comune a livello generale.

## COD. P051

### **Caso clinico: anafilassi dopo ingestione di brodetto di pesce. È possibile una mirata e sicura reintroduzione di prodotti ittici nella dieta?**

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#### Introduzione

Pesci, molluschi e crostacei rappresentano un'importante causa di reazioni allergiche IgE-mediate, incluse l'orticaria e l'anafilassi. Nella diagnostica delle allergie alimentari i test diagnostici utilizzati sono: SPT (I livello), ricerca di IgE totali e specifiche e diagnostica molecolare con molecole ricombinanti (II livello). Da ultimo si ricorre al test di provocazione orale (TPO). Gli allergeni molecolari più rappresentativi sono la parvalbumina per i pesci e la tropomiosina per i molluschi ed i crostacei. Nonostante siano state isolate le forme specie-specifiche di questi allergeni, l'alto tasso di conservazione della loro sequenza aminoacidica non permette di utilizzarli come markers di sensibilizzazione verso una singola specie di pesce, crostaceo o mollusco, pertanto sono considerati panallergeni.

#### Case report

Presentiamo un caso clinico inerente alla gestione diagnostico-terapeutica delle allergie alimentari e le sue criticità. A., 4 anni, paziente con asma persistente moderata del Servizio Regionale di Allergologia e Fisiopatologia Respiratoria Infantile di Chieti, manifesta un episodio di anafilassi in seguito all'ingestione di un brodetto a base di molluschi, crostacei e pesce spinato; A. intraprende dieta di esclusione per tali alimenti. Per permettere ad A. una dieta di esclusione del solo agente causale dell'anafilassi, sono stati eseguiti: SPT, Dosaggio di IgE totali e specifiche e diagnostica molecolare con ricombinanti. Gli SPT sono risultati positivi per merluzzo, gamberetto, acaro della polvere, derivati epidermici di cane ed alternaria. Le Ig-E specifiche hanno dimostrato sensibilizzazione verso merluzzo, gambero, vongola e acaro e lieve sensibilizzazione per alternaria ed epitelio del cane. L'analisi degli allergeni ricombinanti ha mostrato sensibilizzazione sia verso la tropomiosina del gambero (Pan a1) che la parvalbumina (Gad c1), allergene maggiore del merluzzo.

#### Discussione

I ricombinanti utilizzati sono responsabili di cross-reattività: la parvalbumina è un panallergene dei pesci spinati e la tropomiosina di molluschi e crostacei. Pertanto, il paziente in questione ha dovuto proseguire la dieta di esclusione per tutti i pesci e i frutti di mare. Negli ultimi anni sono stati scoperti nuovi allergeni quali Enolasi e Aldolasi per i pesci e la 40 kDa Arginina-Kinase, dotate di specie-specificità ma il cui ruolo nella sensibilizzazione allergica resta ancora da definire. La loro introduzione nella pratica clinica potrebbe aiutare a selezionare con maggiore precisione gli alimenti da eliminare dalla dieta nei pazienti con allergia al pesce.

## COD. P052

### Two Sardinian, unrelated, SCID infants with the same DCLRE1C mutation

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Artemis, NHEJ protein involved in DNA double-strand breaks repair and V(D)J recombination, is encoded by DCLRE1C gene, whose null homozygous or compound heterozygous mutations cause T<sup>-</sup>B<sup>-</sup>NK<sup>+</sup> SCID. We describe two Sardinian SCID unrelated female infants. CASE 1: 2 months-old, born at 39 wks, normal birth aspect, persistent infections (thrush, rhinitis, otitis, enteritis), fever, generalized rash, jaundice. Blood tests: WBC 45500/uL (N 26%, L 57%, M 15%, E 2%), Hb 6.7 g/dL, PLT 90000/uL, ALC 25900/uL, CD3 25120/uL, CD4 17600/uL, CD4CD45RA <0.1%, CD4CD45RO 68%, CD8 5700/uL, CD19 <0.1%, CD56 518/uL, IgG 80 mg/dL, undetectable IgA and IgM; HLA typing: maternal DNA in infant's peripheral blood: SCID T<sup>-</sup>B<sup>-</sup>NK<sup>+</sup>, modified to T<sup>+</sup>B<sup>-</sup>NK<sup>+</sup> by maternal T lymphocytes; HSCT: haploidentical, when 3 months-old, donor her mother. CASE 2: 4 months-old, born at 41 wks, normal birth aspect, persistent thrush, rhinitis, otitis, fever, two pneumonia requiring hospitalization, generalized rash. Blood tests: WBC 25690/uL (N 29%, L 65%, M 4%, E 2%), Hb 11 g/dL, PLT 628000/uL, ALC 16740/uL, CD3 14396/uL, CD4 11383/uL, CD4CD45RA <0.1%, CD4CD45RO 99%, CD8 3683/uL, CD19 1%, CD56 1172/uL, IgG 3390 mg/dL with monoclonal IgG gammopathy; HLA typing: maternal DNA in infant's peripheral blood: SCID T<sup>-</sup>B<sup>-</sup>NK<sup>+</sup>, modified to T<sup>+</sup>B<sup>-</sup>NK<sup>+</sup> by maternal T lymphocytes; HSCT: when 5 months-old, donor her HLA 9/10 matched (different HLA-B: 38,45 in 38,50) mother. Amplification by specific primers and sequencing of the DCLRE1C gene demonstrated that both patients presented the same null homozygous mutation: DCLRE1C exon 14 c.1217delT, p.fsPhe396X (with heterozygous mutation in all their, unrelated, parents).

## **COD. P053**

### **Ma che allergia è questa?**

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Le allergie alimentari non IgE mediate sono poco conosciute negli adulti, tuttavia alcuni pazienti riferiscono sintomi gastrointestinali che si manifestano, in maniera costante, dopo 1-4 ore dall'assunzione di uno specifico alimento, in assenza di manifestazioni cutanee, respiratorie e cardiocircolatorie. E' possibile ipotizzare che questi pazienti siano affetti da una variante dell'adulto di Food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome (FPIES), una allergia alimentare non IgE mediata, generalmente tipica dell'età pediatrica.

Francesco, 18 anni, è arrivato alla nostra attenzione, riferendo una anamnesi caratterizzata dalla comparsa, all'età di 8 mesi, dopo circa 2 ore dall'assunzione di merluzzo, di vomito, dolori addominali e senso di prostrazione; tali sintomi si sono ripetuti successivamente ad ogni tentativo di reintroduzione dell'alimento. Per tale motivo effettuava, a 4 e a 12 anni, due test di provocazione orale (TPO) con dosi crescenti di merluzzo con intervallo di trenta", con dose cumulativa di circa 70 gr. In entrambi i casi, dopo circa tre ore dall'ultima assunzione si manifestavano vomito, dolori addominali e prostrazione. Dall'ultimo TPO Francesco non ha più assunto alcun tipo di pesce.

Abbiamo testato il suo grado di sensibilizzazione utilizzando i test allergometrici cutanei e il dosaggio delle IgE specifiche che hanno evidenziato IgE specifiche negative per merluzzo, gamberi, granchio, tonno, salmone, sardina, platessa, acciuga, Anisakis simplex e Gad c 1 e negatività dei prick test per pesce bianco, merluzzo, cozza, aringa, gamberetto e pesce azzurro. Pertanto è stato programmato nuovo TPO. Il TPO è stato condotto somministrando 5 , 10 e 20 gr di merluzzo cotto, ogni mezz'ora. Dopo circa tre ore dall'ultima somministrazione il paziente ha presentato due episodi di vomito associato a pallore cutaneo e astenia, in assenza di altri sintomi. Tale sintomatologia è stata trattata unicamente con soluzione fisiologica in infusione ed è rapidamente regredita in circa 10-15 minuti. A distanza di 30 minuti dai sintomi è stato eseguito il dosaggio della triptasi, risultato nella norma.

La maggior parte dei casi di FPIES si manifesta nell'infanzia e si risolve entro i 3 anni di età. Tuttavia, negli ultimi anni, sono stati riportati casi di evidenza anche negli adulti. Questo caso suggerisce che la FPIES dovrebbe essere considerata nella diagnosi differenziale in pazienti adulti con sintomi gastrointestinali che si manifestano entro 1- 4 ore dall'ingestione dell'alimento, in particolare se questi episodi si ripetono in più di una occasione.

**COD. P054**

**QUANDO L'ALLERGIA AL GRANO INSORGE PRECOCEMENTE: GESTIONE DELL'ANAFILASSI AL GRANO IN CORSO DI DIVEZZAMENTO.**

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**INTRODUZIONE**

Si stima che l'incidenza di allergia al grano con anafilassi in età pediatrica sia 0,8-1,9% sul totale di accessi in PS all'anno per anafilassi da alimento, nella nostra casistica dell'ultimo semestre sono stati riscontrati 2 eventi con anafilassi in lattante a distanza di 3 mesi.

**CASI CLINICI**

M.H., 5 mesi, allattamento al seno complementato, dopo circa 30 minuti dalla prima assunzione di semolino diluito in LF1 presentava rash eritematoso diffuso, edema dei padiglioni auricolari e un vomito. Era vigile e reattivo, tachipnoico e tachicardico. Restanti parametri vitali adeguati.

M.L., 7 mesi, allattamento esclusivo al seno, dopo circa 2 ore (sintomatologia rilevata al risveglio pomeridiano) dall'introduzione di crema multicereali (seconda assunzione) presentava orticaria diffusa, edema dei padiglioni auricolari, non episodi di vomito ma iporeattività e vasocostrizione con cianosi labiale. Parametri vitali adeguati.

**ACCERTAMENTI**

M.H. (semolino): IgE per grano: 0,71 kUA/l, Tri a 14: <0,10 kUA/l, gliadina: 0,91 kUA/l, Tri a 19: 0,39 kUA/l.

M.L. (crema multicereali): IgE per grano 3,28 kUA/l, per orzo e avena 0,47 e 0,05 kUA/l, riso 0,01 kUA/l, Tri a 14: 6,13 kUA/l, gliadina: <0,10 kUA/l (dati in parte provenienti da altro Centro per trasferimento del paziente).

Sulla base della correlazione tra sintomatologia ed assunzione dell'alimento e degli accertamenti eseguiti, veniva posta diagnosi di allergia al grano.

**CONCLUSIONI**

Un'accurata anamnesi è indispensabile per diagnosticare allergia alimentare e per richiedere accertamenti mirati soprattutto in corso di divezzamento. Considerando l'età dei nostri pazienti, l'esordio severo e la correlazione con l'alimento abbiamo bypassato il primo livello di indagini (SPT e prick-by-prick), richiedendo direttamente sIgE e diagnostica molecolare (ImmunoCap) per componenti specifiche del grano.

Tra queste, gliadina e Tri a 19 correlano maggiormente con reazioni immediate e severe e sono anche riconosciute come markers per lo sviluppo di tolleranza (timing del TPO di riesposizione mediamente dopo i 4 anni), pertanto da richiedere sempre nel sospetto di allergia al grano. L'allergia al grano rientra nei disordini immunitari glutine-correlati pur non condividendo la patogenesi con celiachia e gluten sensitivity, la gestione prevede dieta priva di proteine del grano, monitoraggio della crescita staturale e ponderale e fornitura di adrenalina a seconda dei casi. Il divezzamento può essere proseguito, con elevata tollerabilità, con mais, riso, miglio, saggina, grano saraceno e quinoa, segale, orzo e avena permessi dopo esclusione di cross-reattività. Da evitare prodotti gluten-free per la possibile presenza di tracce di amido non purificate da proteine del grano.

## **COD. P055**

### **Around wheals and swelling: a case of angioedema associated with chronic spontaneous urticaria**

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A., 8-year-old child, presented to our outpatient service for isolated recurrent genital and labial swelling associated with wheals and non painful edema of hands and feet resolving in few hours with oral antihistamines and corticosteroids. His previous medical history only showed mild atopic dermatitis. He had no relevant family history nor recent infections. Physical and drug-induced urticaria was excluded. It was not possible to identify any culprit food. Physical examination revealed non-pitting edema of the penile shaft without pain or itching. Similar episodes have occurred for 7 weeks with a weekly frequency. SPT were not reliable because of dermatographic urticaria. CBC, routine biochemistry, inflammatory markers were negative except for a mild eosinophilia (800 cells/uL). Thyroid function tests, ANA, C3, C4 and C1-INH were normal. IgG, IgA, IgM were all normal whereas total IgE were elevated (240,8 UI/mL) with negative serum-specific-IgE for food and aeroallergens. As we suspected a case of angioedema associated with chronic spontaneous urticaria, we prescribed oral antihistamines with resolution of acute symptoms but relapse at the reduction.

Angioedema is a sudden, self-limited swelling of localized areas of any part of the body and it is often associated with urticaria in up to 50% of cases. Urticaria can be classified in acute (<6 weeks) or chronic (>6 weeks). Urticaria and angioedema are common in atopic individuals, but they frequently manifest also in non-atopic patients and clinical presentation generally resolves within 24-48 h. Remission is difficult to predict because of possible long-term courses.

**COD. P056**

**Pulmonary hemosiderosis in a child with Down's syndrome: a case report**

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We describe the case of a male child suffering from pulmonary hemosiderosis and Down's syndrome. Born at term in Romania from normal pregnancy, eutocic delivery with regular peripartum period, small for gestational age. From the first days of life, the presence of polypnea was detected. At the age of 3 months, the child came to Italy where pulmonary hypertension was found in concomitance of interatrial ostium secundum type defect (DIA) and therapy with furosemide, aldactone and bosentan was started. At 4 months of age, the child was admitted for acute respiratory infection associated with severe interstitial disease, demonstrated by chest TC, which required PICU transfer and respiratory support: the child's status was complicated by severe anemia which needed multiple blood transfusions. Because of clinical presentation (interstitial pulmonary disease, haemoptysis and anemia) and blood tests, the clinical suspicion of hemosiderosis was placed, moreover a cow milk-free diet was started in suspected Heiner syndrome. During the subsequent admission, pulmonary biopsy was performed and hemosiderosis pattern was found. Later the child performed several hospitalizations and a therapy with hydroxychloroquine and corticosteroids was undertaken. Despite the diet free of milk's derivatives, no respiratory improvement was seen. Possibility of surgery correction of DIA was rejected because of the high anesthesiological risk. The child came to our observation for hemoptysis at 12 month of age: diagnostic blood tests confirmed the diagnosis of pulmonary hemosiderosis. During outpatient follow-up, considering his hemodynamic stability, bosentan was discontinued. Further investigations are currently planned in order to reintroduce milk proteins.

**COD. P057**

**Sublingual immunotherapy for grass pollen rhinitis in children: 3-year-follow up in a cohort in Southern Italy**

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Allergic rhinitis (AR) is a global health problem crucially affecting quality of life. ITS is currently recognized as an effective treatment of AR and it modifies its natural history. We report our experience in order to evaluate the clinical features of patients treated with grass pollen ITS (Grazax® and Oralair®) and the reduction of medication dispensing. From 2015 to 2018, 59 children affected by AR (37 M, 22 F) have been prescribed with ITS, 28 with Grazax® (16M, 12F) and 31 with Oralair® (21M, 10F). Patients underwent to SPT and/or sIgE dosage. Several patients reported comorbidities (18 asthma, 12 AD, 1 urticaria), 34 were polysensitized and 13 were prescribed with additional ITS (8 Df and Dp, 3 O.europea, 2 P.judaica). At reevaluation, performed on 38/59 patients, prevalence of sneezing has decreased (86,8% vs 7,9%), similarly to rhinorea (57,9% vs 23,7%), nose itching (55,3% vs 28,9%) and nasal obstruction (86,8% vs 26,3%) has decreased. Prescription of systemic antihistamines has decreased (86,8% vs 7,9%), as prescription of nasal antihistamines (42,1% vs 18,4%) and nasal steroids (81,6% vs 60,5%). 7/28 Grazax® and 8/31 Oralair® patients intentionally dropped off. Notably, 2/28 Grazax® patients reported labial edema with respiratory distress and dysphagia.

ITS represents the only disease-modifying therapy for AR. Sublingual tablets were well tolerated and have improved AR symptoms. Reduction of medication dispensing was observed especially for systemic and nasal antihistamines. A wider cohort will help to evaluate efficacy and to confirm these preliminary findings.

## **COD. P058**

### **Pediatric DRESS Syndrome for Oxcarbazepine**

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#### **Introduction**

Drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) syndrome is a rare, life-threatening drug-induced hypersensitivity reaction. Classically caused by anticonvulsants and sulphonamides, 2-8 weeks after its introduction. The main clinical symptoms are exanthema, lymphadenopathy, hematological alterations, and organ involvement. It is infrequently seen in the pediatric population. We present an Oxcarbazepine-induced DRESS syndrome in a seven years old boy.

#### **Patients and methods**

Ten days after the patient started treatment with Oxcarbazepine for epilepsy, he presented urticaria and a generalized rash, high fever, lymphadenopathy, eosinophilia, and elevation of cholestasis enzymes. The condition was early detected, the drug was immediately discontinued, and systemic corticosteroid treatment was prescribed. Hospitalization with multidisciplinary management, laboratory tests, and skin biopsies were required. Luckily, the patient didn't present any severe visceral involvement.

#### **Results**

Corticosteroid led progressively to a good outcome after 4 months with one well-controlled exacerbation after 2 months. Several blood counts showed eosinophilia, (maximum  $1.5 \times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$ , 10.4 %; range  $0-0.5 \times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$ ); ALP: 208 U/L; C Reactive Protein 23.8 mg/L. Serology for CMV, Epstein Barr virus, B19 Parvovirus; and PCR for HV6, HV7 were negative. Skin biopsy showed a superficial and interstitial perivascular infiltrate of small lymphocytes, focal spongiosis and isolated Civatte bodies, with some eosinophils and neutrophils in blood vessels lumen.

#### **Conclusion**

DRESS syndrome is a rare condition in children, and the diagnosis is mainly clinical. Doctors should be trained for a rapid diagnostic suspicion and recognition cause the immediate suspension of the offending drug is crucial to avoid complications.

## COD. P059

### **Efficacy of sublingual allergen-specific immunotherapy in children evaluated by the measurements of bronchial and nasal nitric oxide. Preliminary results**

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#### Introduction

The aim of our study was to establish the efficacy of sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT) by the evaluation of symptoms, lung function tests, bronchial fraction of exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO), and nasal nitric oxide (nNO) after six months of treatment.

#### Methods

Inclusion criteria: (1) age 6–14 years old; (2) diagnosis of allergic asthma with or without allergic rhinitis; and (3) sensitization towards a single perennial allergen. We compared baseline with six-month treatment values by analyzing symptoms using the visual analogue scale (VAS) and lung function tests.

#### Results

We enrolled 27 patients (mean age  $9.2 \pm 2.6$ ), 10 of whom already completed the six-months evaluation. The preliminary results showed an improvement in baseline versus six-month treatment values (global VAS 56 versus 5), predicted forced expiratory volume in 1 sec ([FEV1];  $88.6 \pm 3.6$  versus  $95 \pm 4.4$  %), a significant reduction in both FeNO and nNO ( $38.8 \pm 10.6$  versus  $21.8 \pm 7.1$  ppb and  $1264 \pm 202$  versus  $890 \pm 73.6$  ppb, respectively) after six months. Partial evaluation of the remaining 17 patients showed that a slight improvement in symptoms and FEV1 in addition to a reduction in FeNO and nNO could be demonstrated as early as one month after treatment initiation.

#### Conclusions

The preliminary results of our study, which is still ongoing, allow us to hypothesize that SLIT may guarantee good results in reducing symptoms of rhinitis and allergic asthma that is objectively confirmed by the reduction of nasal and bronchial eosinophilic inflammation evaluated by the measurement of NO.

## **COD. P060**

### **Early inhaled therapy with adrenaline in acute bronchiolitis: a single center experience on a large cohort of patients**

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**Introduction** Bronchiolitis is an infectious disease caused by a virus (generally Respiratory Syncytial Virus, RSV) in children under 1 year of age; it's characterized by inflammation, edema and necrosis of bronchiolar epithelium, with increased mucus production and bronchospasm. The only recommended treatments are oxygen-therapy for hypoxia and nasogastric/intravenous administration of fluids if failure of oral feeding. The aim of our study is to prove through a retrospective analysis the possible efficacy of early inhaled adrenaline treatment in infants who were admitted in the ED of Gaslini Hospital in the 2015-2016 winter period. **Patients and Methods** 374 infants under 6 months of age with diagnosis of "Acute Bronchiolitis from RSV or other Agents" were enrolled; 282 received adrenaline within 72 hours from the onset of symptoms, 92 after. Adrenaline was administered by aerosol at a dose of 0.1 mg/kg/dose 8 times a day. The following outcome indicators were considered: length of hospitalization, need for High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC), invasive respiratory support in PICU. **Results** Adrenaline therapy significantly reduced the length of hospitalization (67,2 hours vs 100,4 hours,  $p < 0,001$ ) if started within 72 hours from the onset of symptoms. Patients with severe clinical presentation (measured with Wang score) treated with early inhaled adrenaline received significantly less HFNC compared to those treated after the first 72 hours (33% vs 58%). No patients needed invasive ventilation. **Conclusion** The results of our study show that early inhaled adrenaline therapy, administered frequently, has statistically significant effect in reducing the length of hospitalization. The beneficial effect is also recorded as a reduced need of HFNC support, in particular among the patients with severe disease.

## **COD. P061**

### **Efficacy of Grintuss® pediatric syrup in treating cough in children**

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#### **Introduction**

Grintuss® Pediatric syrup is a medical device that exerts a protective effect in the upper respiratory tract area and acts as a mechanical barrier. The aim of our study was to evaluate the efficacy of this syrup in pediatric patients with cough.

#### **Methods**

We prescribed Grintuss® Pediatric syrup to all children over 1 year of age with cough. We divided the patients into 4 groups by the duration and phenotype of the cough:

Acute dry cough;

Acute productive cough;

Persistent (1-3 weeks) dry cough;

Persistent productive cough.

After one week, the parents of the patients who were treated with Grintuss® Pediatric were contacted by telephone to verify the effectiveness of the treatment, acceptance and tolerability of the product, and possible presence of adverse reactions after administration of the syrup.

#### **Results**

Fifty-five children underwent treatment with Grintuss® Pediatric syrup. The following responses were collected in response to the question "In general how do you evaluate the effectiveness of Grintuss Pediatric?"

Excellent: 16

Good: 31

Sufficient: 6

Poor: 2

The best results were reached in patients with persistent dry cough (76% of excellent and good responses) and in the 3-6 years age range (88%). The tolerability of Grintuss® Pediatric was excellent and no adverse reactions were reported.

#### **Conclusions**

The analysis of the data of patients undergoing treatment with Grintuss® Pediatric allows us to identify this medical device as a valid aid in the symptomatic treatment of cough in pediatric patients.

## **COD. P062**

### **Quando l'asma non si controlla: un caso di pneumomediastino spontaneo.**

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Alessandro è un bambino di 7 anni, affetto da asma allergico severo (9 ricoveri in 4 anni per accessi di broncospasmo ossigeno-dipendente) con sensibilizzazione ad acaro della polvere e graminacee. Visto il mancato controllo dell'asma (esacerbazioni in terapia di fondo con salmeterolo/fluticasone), nel dicembre 2018 eseguiva TC torace per escludere malformazioni polmonari, risultata negativa. A febbraio 2019 accedeva al nostro PS per nuova riacutizzazione in corso di terapia con salmeterolo/fluticasone. All'esame obiettivo: tachidispnea, SpO2 90%, eloquio ridotto, rientramenti epifrenici, riduzione ingresso aereo, sensazione di enfisema sottocutaneo all'emitorace di destra, collo e regione sopraclaveare. La radiografia del torace confermava il sospetto clinico di pneumomediastino. I Colleghi Chirurghi Toracici non ponevano indicazioni al drenaggio, per cui Alessandro proseguiva terapia farmacologica (salbutamolo inalatorio, corticosteroidi endovena e ossigenoterapia con maschera Venturi), a scalare durante il ricovero, con graduale risoluzione in 7 giorni.

Data la severità dell'asma venivano eseguiti: VES, PCR, dosaggio di immunoglobuline, autoanticorpi e sottopopolazioni linfocitarie, enzima ACE, alfa-1-antitripsina ed elastasi fecale che risultavano nella norma. Eseguiva test del sudore che risultava però positivo (68 mmol/L) e conseguente analisi genetica per fibrosi cistica, tutt'ora in corso. Lo pneumomediastino spontaneo (SPM) è un evento raro nella popolazione pediatrica. L'asma e le sue riacutizzazioni rappresentano il principale fattore di rischio per l'insorgenza di SPM, in particolare se severo e scarsamente controllato. Il quadro clinico presenta in genere dolore toracico (retrosternale, peggiorato da inspirio profondo e cambi di posizione, irradiato a schiena e braccia), dispnea ed enfisema sottocutaneo. Anamnesi, esame obiettivo e Rx torace standard sono in genere sufficienti alla diagnosi, raramente sono richiesti altri esami (TC, EGDS, broncoscopia). Diagnosi differenziale dev'essere posta con la rottura esofagea, condizione rara ma molto severa (rischio di mediastinite). Lo pneumomediastino spontaneo è in genere benigno e autolimitante: si risolve senza sequele in  $3\pm 15$  giorni. Possibili complicanze comprendono pneumotorace e pneumopericardio, in genere anch'esse autolimitanti senza necessità di trattamento. La terapia prevede riposo per 1-4 giorni, analgesia, ossigenoterapia, monitoraggio clinico e trattamento delle comorbidità. Potrebbe rendersi necessario il posizionamento di un drenaggio pleurico in caso di enfisema importante a scopo decompressivo per evitare una compromissione cardiorespiratoria. È bene istruire il paziente sulla necessità di riposare e evitare manovre che possano aumentare la pressione intratoracica. Come dimostra il caso di Alessandro, nell'asma grave e mal controllato lo pneumomediastino (così come la sua gestione) deve essere sempre tenuto presente come possibile, seppur rara, complicanza.

## COD. P063

### Accuracy of component resolved diagnostics for the diagnosis of cow's milk and egg allergy in children: a multicenter retrospective study

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#### Introduction:

Cow's milk allergy and egg allergy are the most frequent food allergy (FA) in children. This study aimed to investigate component-resolved diagnostics (CRD) to cow's milk and egg proteins, by correlating the level of CRD with outcome of the oral challenge.

#### Patients and Methods:

We analyzed data from 161 subjects, 90 with suspicious of cow's milk allergy (CMA); median age 5,5 months, and 71 with suspicious of egg allergy (EA); median age 9,5 mo. Data regarding oral food challenges outcome, and sensitization data (skin prick test and sIgE to milk and egg components) were collected. We calculated the diagnostic accuracy of CRD, by the ROC curves and derived both the best negative and positive cutoffs for the diagnosis of CM and HE allergy respectively.

#### Results:

sIgE to beta-lactoglobulin and casein showed better diagnostic accuracy with area under curve (AUC) of 0,8 and 0,84, respectively; casein sIgE showed high SP and PPV, 98% and 91% respectively, considering a positive cutoff of 9,6 kU/l. For egg allergy, sIgE to ovomucoid (Gal d 1) had SP and PPV 98% and 80% respectively with a cutoff of 8,42 kU/l. sIgE to ovalbumin (Gal d 2) had SP and PPV 96% and 71% respectively with a cutoff of 5,91 kU/l. Gald1 and Gald2 showed overall diagnostic accuracy with AUC of 0,71 and 0,77, respectively.

#### Conclusions:

Overall, our data indicate that IgE components are not able to replace the oral food challenges as the gold standard in the diagnosis of egg allergy and CMA allergy. However, for CMA, sIgE to casein above specific cut-off, could potentially reduce the number of OFC in the considered population.

**COD. P064**

**Dietary intake, Resting Energy Expenditure (REE) and body composition of children with allergic asthma: a pilot case-control study**

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**Introduction:** Few data exist about growth and dietary habits in children with asthma. We aimed to evaluate REE, anthropometric measurements, body composition and dietary intake in children with allergic asthma.

**Materials and Methods:** 26 children with allergic asthma were compared to 26 healthy children. Asthmatic children underwent spirometry and nitric oxide measurement. In both groups, anthropometric measurements were taken, and dietary intake was evaluated by a 3-day diet record. REE was measured by indirect calorimetry. T-Student test was used to analyse differences between asthmatic children and matched controls.

**Results:** Asthmatic children show significant higher fat mass (p 0,018) and waist circumference (p 0,026) than controls. Higher intake of arachidonic acid (p 0,002), niacin (p 0,001) and vitamin B6 (p 0,029), and lower fiber g/1000kcal (p 0,003) and vitamin A intake (p 0,037) have been observed in asthmatic children compared to controls. No differences in terms of anthropometric measurements and REE were observed. Notably, most children in both groups, failed to reach the nutritional intakes recommended by the Italian Guidelines.

**Conclusion:** The observed differences in body composition and dietary intake between asthmatic children vs controls may suggest a possible difference in dietary pattern and lifestyle. These data underline the importance to further investigate dietary habits in asthmatic children to elucidate the role of diet on asthma.

## **COD. P065**

### **Use of pidotimod for treatment of pediatric recurrent respiratory tract infections and wheezing**

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#### Introduction

Recurrent respiratory infections (RRI) and wheezing are the most common illness in children caused by their immature immune system. Pidotimod is a synthetic dipeptide immunostimulant exerting effects on both innate and adaptive immunity. The treatment length is not standardized and the dosage is 400 mg twice a day at acute phase (2 weeks) and 400 mg once a day for at least 60 days for prevention. In the present study, we aimed to assess the effectiveness and safety of Pidotimod in treatment of RRI and/or wheezing in children. **Methods**

We enrolled patients with RRI and or wheezing, aged > 3 years. At baseline, all patients were treated with pidotimod 400 mg/die for three months. Children were clinically evaluated at baseline (T0), after 30 (T1), 60 (T2), 90 (T3) and 180 days (T6).

#### Results

90 children, 50 male, mean age  $6.5 \pm 3.2$  years, were enrolled in the study. We divided the patients into 4 groups according to the phenotype in: RRI alone (45 patients) wheezing alone (20 patients) RRI + wheezing (25 patients). All groups showed at T6 a significant reduction in symptoms of upper and lower airways (-60%), fever episodes (-65%), drug use especially antibiotics and oral corticosteroids (-50%), visits for respiratory symptoms (-35%) and increased school attendance (+40%).

#### Conclusions

This study confirms the evidence that Pidotimod is useful to treat RRI and to date is the first even for viral wheezing in children.

**COD. P066**

**Effectiveness of omalizumab in two children with severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis**

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**Introduction**

Vernal keratoconjunctivitis (VKC) is a severe form of pediatric ocular allergy, characterized by acute and chronic corneconjunctival inflammation, that usually begins in the first decade of life and tends to resolve spontaneously after puberty. The ocular physical examination is aimed at searching the four-fold signs: conjunctival hyperemia, papillary hypertrophy, giant papillae, papillae in the region of the limbus. Although topical immunosuppressive drugs such as cyclosporine are usually effective, some severe forms may be refractory and require prolonged steroid therapy. In recent years, omalizumab, an anti-IgE monoclonal antibody, has been seen to have promising results in treatment of VKC. Here, we describe 2 cases of children with severe VKC that were poor responsive to conventional therapy.

**Case report**

We report the cases of 2 children, aged 13 and 10 years old, with high IgE levels (2400 and 1960 UI/mL respectively) and positivity for perennial and seasonal allergens, affected by asthma and VKC treated with oral and inhaled corticosteroids and topical cyclosporine with poor control. One patient had even requested intrapalpebral depot-steroid injections. Thus, we decided to start treatment with omalizumab by subcutaneous injections every 2 weeks at dosage depending on the weight. After 16 weeks of therapy there was a general improvement of symptoms of both VKC and asthma with important benefits from the ocular point of view even if they continue the administration of topical cyclosporine.

**Conclusion**

Omalizumab may be an important adjunctive therapy for the treatment of severe forms of VKC associated with allergic diseases.

**COD. P067**

**Follow-up ed outcome dei pazienti con diagnosi di ipogammaglobulinemia transitoria dell'infanzia**

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**Introduzione:** L'ipogammaglobulinemia transitoria dell'infanzia (THI) è un'immunodeficienza primitiva dell'età pediatrica da sempre considerata benigna e transitoria. La THI si caratterizza per un ritardo nel normale processo di sintesi delle immunoglobuline, soprattutto IgG ma anche IgA e/o IgM, e generalmente la diagnosi viene confermata a posteriori quando si assiste alla normalizzazione dei valori sierici di immunoglobuline, generalmente tra i 2 ed i 4 anni di età. In letteratura non esistono studi su un follow-up a lungo termine dei pazienti con diagnosi di THI, soprattutto visto il decorso favorevole che generalmente possiede. Lo scopo del nostro studio è quello di valutare l'outcome a lungo termine dei pazienti con THI al fine di identificare markers predittivi di evoluzione verso forme più complesse di immunodeficienze.

**Materiali e metodi:** Tra il 2018 ed il 2019 presso la UOSD di Immunopatologia ed Allergologia Pediatrica del Policlinico di Tor Vergata, sono state eseguite visite di follow-up e controlli immunologici su 12 pazienti (8 maschi e 4 femmine) di età compresa tra i 12 ed i 21 anni con pregressa diagnosi di THI, formulata mediamente 12 anni prima.

**Risultati:** Al follow-up 3/12 (25%) pazienti erano asintomatici, mentre gli altri presentavano manifestazioni prevalentemente di natura allergica (8/12, 67%). Manifestazioni infettive di tipo ricorrente ed inusuale e/o atipiche erano presenti in 4/12 (33%) pazienti. Sulla base della normalizzazione dei valori delle IgG a distanza abbiamo quindi distinto un gruppo THI costituito da 7/12 (58%) pazienti, ed un gruppo PID non-THI, composto da 5/12 (42%) pazienti che presentavano valori ridotti di immunoglobuline, indipendentemente dall'isotipo interessato. In particolare nel gruppo PID-non THI 1 (20%) paziente aveva sviluppato una condizione di Immunodeficienza Comune Variabile, 1 (20%) paziente un Difetto Parziale di IgA, mentre 3/5 (60%) pazienti avevano una condizione che rispondeva ai criteri ESID di una Unclassified Antibody Deficiency.

**Conclusioni:** I dati preliminari del nostro studio evidenziano, a distanza di circa 12 anni dalla diagnosi di THI, una condizione variabile di PID da forme minori a forme più complesse. Pertanto, è opportuno rivalutare a distanza di tempo i pazienti con diagnosi definitiva di THI, quando sintomatici e/o con il riscontro di anomalie immunologiche. Sono necessari pertanto ulteriori studi per un'eventuale rivisitazione del concetto di transitorietà dell'ipogammaglobulinemia transitoria dell'infanzia, per la possibile evoluzione verso forme complesse di immunodeficienza.

**COD. P068**

**A STRANGE DERMATITES: THE LYMPHOID VARIANT OF HYPEREOSINOPHILIC SYNDROMES**

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Introduction The hypereosinophilic syndromes (HES) are a rare, heterogeneous group of disease characterized by hypereosinophilia ( $>1.5 \times 10^9/L$ ) for more than six months, associated with eosinophils-mediated organ damage. The lymphocytic form (L-HES) is a reactive HES, due to an increase production of IL-5 by abnormal T- lymphocytes, that leads to a polyclonal expansion of eosinophils. Case report A 7-years-old girl presented with chronic dermatitis characterized by spread erythematous, pruritic papules and nodules, with no facial involvement. The first rash appeared at 16 months, with an initial spontaneous regression. At 3 years, blood tests showed marked hypereosinophilia (7280/mm<sup>3</sup>). Few months later examination of skin revealed Grotton papules over interphalangeal joints, so she was hospitalized for exclusion of dermatomyositis and main causes of hypereosinophilia. Blood test confirmed hypereosinophilia (5000/mm<sup>3</sup>), so bone marrow aspirate was performed with evidence of increased number of eosinophils and disgranulopoiesis notes. FISH excluded rearrangements or aneuploidy of PDGFRA and PDGFRB genes. Due to worsening of skin lesions, despite antihistamine therapy, and increasingly higher eosinophilic values (maximum 28730/mm<sup>3</sup>), at 6 years she performed an immunological examination: lymphocyte subpopulations showed a proportion of lymphocytes T CD45(bright)/CD2+/CD4/CD5+/CD25+(72%)/cyCD3+/CD8-/CD7-/sCD3-, equal to 10%. The examinations performed and the clinical picture, oriented for the diagnosis of L-HES. The girl has currently began corticosteroids therapy with improvement of cutaneous picture. Conclusion Patients with L-HES can be poorly symptomatic for years but T-cell lymphomas and organ damage may occur during disease course so they should be closely monitored.

**COD. P069**

**Vaccini in gravidanza ed immunocompromissione**

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**Introduzione:** Le vaccinazioni raccomandate in gravidanza offrono protezione sia alla madre sia al bambino e riducono la trasmissione materno-fetale delle infezioni. I soggetti immunocompromessi hanno un'aumentata suscettibilità alle infezioni che può significativamente compromettere la prognosi e qualità di vita di questi pazienti. Pertanto, la vaccinazione, inclusa quella in gravidanza, rappresenta uno strumento critico di prevenzione anche se la risposta postvaccinale può risultare adeguata, ridotta o assente a seconda del tipo di immunocompromissione. Nonostante sia stata dimostrata l'efficacia e sicurezza della vaccinazione antinfluenzale e di quella antipertosse in gravidanza l'adesione vaccinale nella popolazione generale rimane ancora a livelli subottimali. Scopo del nostro studio è quello di fornire un quadro delle conoscenze e dell'atteggiamento dei pazienti immunocompromessi verso le vaccinazioni incluse quelle in gravidanza.

**Materiali e metodi:** La UOSD di Immunopatologia ed Allergologia Pediatrica del Policlinico Tor Vergata, con il supporto dell'Associazione Immunodeficienze Primitive (AIP) ed in linea con la Commissione Vaccini SIAIP, e con la collaborazione della UOC di Reumatologia del Policlinico Tor Vergata, ha realizzato e sottoposto, tra il 2018 ed il 2019, un questionario conoscitivo costituito da domande a risposta multipla (9 domande per gli uomini e 11 per le donne), a 175 pazienti immunocompromessi.

**Risultati:** 175 pazienti (76 uomini, 43% e 99 donne, 57%) hanno risposto al questionario. In particolare 80/175 (45%) pazienti erano di età > 50 anni, 85/175 (49%) avevano un'età compresa tra i 18 ed i 50 anni, mentre 10/175 (6%) avevano un'età inferiore ai 18 anni. In particolare 82/175 (47%) pazienti erano affetti da immunodeficienza primitiva, mentre 93/175 (53%) da una patologia reumatologica. Nella nostra coorte 105/175 (60%) pazienti riferivano di aver ricevuto informazioni circa l'importanza delle vaccinazioni in condizioni di immunocompromissione con 39/175 (22%) pazienti che riferivano di aver eseguito la vaccinazione anti-influenzale e 23/175, 13% quella anti-pneumococcica successivamente alla diagnosi. Riguardo i vaccini in gravidanza, 54/175 (31%) pazienti ne erano stati informati, con 14/99 (14%) donne che hanno eseguito/eguiranno la vaccinazione anti-influenzale in gravidanza, e 15/99 (15%) che hanno eseguito/eguiranno quella anti-pertosse.

**Conclusioni:** I nostri dati preliminari indicano che sono ancora scarse le informazioni sulle vaccinazioni nelle specifiche condizioni di immunocompromissione, anche in quei soggetti che potrebbero ricevere vaccini in condizione di sicurezza. In particolare, sono necessari ulteriori interventi per supportare le decisioni sulle indicazioni alle vaccinazioni anche in gravidanza e favorire la formazione delle figure professionali sanitarie per ridurre l'esitazione vaccinale laddove i vaccini sono raccomandati.

## **COD. P070**

### **A case of macrolide-resistant *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* in a 4-years old girl with chronic asthma**

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Asthma is a chronic inflammation of the upper airways, characterized by symptoms of airways reversible obstruction and inflammation such as wheeze, cough, chest tightness and breathlessness. Trigger of asthma exacerbations may be viral infections, environmental tobacco smoke, aeroallergens or exercise. The combination of genetic and environmental factors determines the severity of asthma and its exacerbations. C. is a 4-years-old girl with severe chronic asthma, being treated with salmeterol+fluticasone spray, montelukast and cetirizine, admitted for persistent cough. Her recent medical history saw a change of cough from dry to catarrhal, fever and weight loss, treated with cefixime for 7 days and clarithromycin for 14 days. During the hospitalization, first and second level exams showed left apical thickening lung and positivity of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* (Mp) with the PCR-real time technique, performed by our laboratory. As recommended by the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, she was treated with azithromycin at the dosage of 10mg/Kg/die for 5 days (with subsequent same antibiotic cycle after 1 week) and, in accordance with literature, with oral prednisolone (1mg/Kg/die), with benefit. Differential diagnosis included persistent bacterial pneumoniae, structural anomalies of airways and heart, tuberculosis, etc, excluded during the hospitalization. Macrolide-resistant Mp in children is linked with the excessive use of macrolides treatment. Considering that the severity of Mp infections is largely dependent on the host immune response, in some cases IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin) or corticosteroids may be added to reduce the immune reaction.

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## **COD. P071**

### **Allergia alla pesca: la diagnosi molecolare è sempre dirimente?**

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Introduzione: L'allergia alla pesca è un'allergia alimentare (AA) comune, soprattutto per i soggetti che vivono nei Paesi del Sud Europa e del Mediterraneo. La pesca, insieme all'albicocca, alla mandorla, alla ciliegia ed alla susina, appartiene alla famiglia delle Drupacee. Dato che le reazioni possono essere piuttosto severe, diagnosticare l'allergia alla pesca è molto importante per ridurre al minimo il rischio. Oltre alla diagnostica "classica" (prick test, IgE specifiche), i test molecolari possono permetterci di inquadrare meglio l'allergia. Nel caso della pesca, la sensibilizzazione all'allergene molecolare Pru p3 conferisce un rischio di reazione grave più elevato rispetto ad altri allergeni molecolari quali Pru p1 o Pru p4.

Descriviamo il caso di un ragazzo di 16 anni, seguito presso la UOSD Immunopatologia e Allergologia Pediatrica del Policlinico Tor Vergata, Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata, per Rinocongiuntivite poliallergica ed intolleranza al lattosio. Nell'ultimo controllo il ragazzo riferiva di aver avuto, dopo assunzione di pesca noce, un episodio di rash cutaneo, edema delle labbra e della glottide e broncospasmo. L'assunzione era avvenuta durante il pomeriggio, a casa, senza altri alimenti o alcool in contemporanea. I genitori, entrambi infermieri, avevano somministrato 4 mg i.m. di betametasone e 10 mg di levocetirizina per os, con risoluzione della sintomatologia. Il ragazzo aveva assunto in precedenza la pesca senza problemi. Durante la visita sono stati effettuati Prick test per LTP e drupacee, risultati negativi. Anche la diagnostica molecolare per rPru p1 PR-10, rPru p3 ed LTP era negativa. Ciononostante, vista la pregressa storia di anafilassi, è stata prescritta adrenalina autoiniezzabile. Dopo quell'episodio il ragazzo non ha presentato altre reazioni ad alimenti ma non ha più assunto pesca o altre Drupacee. Siamo in attesa di poter effettuare il Test di Provocazione Orale (TPO), al momento rifiutato dal ragazzo.

Conclusioni: La diagnostica molecolare consente di individuare le molecole specifiche della fonte allergenica e questa opportunità comporta risvolti pratici facilmente immaginabili nell'ambito di un percorso personalizzato per quanto riguarda la dieta. Tuttavia, poichè gli alimenti sono costituiti da numerose molecole, l'eventuale assenza di sensibilizzazione ad una LTP non esclude un'allergia alimentare in presenza di un quadro clinico suggestivo, come evidenziato dal nostro caso clinico. In conclusione, il TPO continua a rimanere il gold standard nelle diagnosi di AA, soprattutto nei pazienti con indagini di laboratorio discordanti.

**COD. P072**

**Epidemiological and clinical characteristics of anaphylactic reactions in children: a retrospective study from a tertiary-care hospital in Italy**

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**Introduction**

The epidemiological and clinical characteristics of anaphylaxis, especially in children, are not clear and showed diversity in many studies. Methods A retrospective case series was developed from children aged from birth to 18 years presenting who had been diagnosed with anaphylaxis between 2003 and 2018 in the Pediatric Department of Immuno-Allergology of Pavia.

**Results**

We identified 94 cases of anaphylaxis (mean age 6.7 years, 61.7% male). Foods were the most common culprit (88.3%), followed by insect stings (9.6%) and respiratory allergens (2.1%). In the food trigger group, peanut, walnut and other dried fruits occupied the largest proportion at 52.1%, cow's milk and hen's egg at 19.1% and 12.9%, respectively, followed by fish, kiwi, wheat. Asthma and/o allergic rhinitis were the most frequent comorbidities. Cofactors were present in only 3% of patients, mainly exercise. Reactions occurred at home and school most frequently (84%), followed by reactions that occurred in hospital during food challenges (16%). Of 94 anaphylactic events, 90.4% were involved with the cutaneous and mucosal, 71.3% with gastrointestinal, 66% with respiratory, 12.8% with cardiovascular, and 9.6% with neurological systems. Forty-eight (51.1%) children fulfilled the criteria of severe anaphylaxis. Sixty-seven (71.3%) children received a treatment prior to presentation to Emergency Department, but only 22.7% of them received adrenaline. No biphasic reactions and/or fatalities occurred.

**Conclusion**

Education regarding the more aggressive use of epinephrine both in home and hospital settings is clearly needed to overall improve adherence to anaphylaxis treatment guidelines.

## **COD. P073**

### **Off-label treatment with Cyclosporine A in a child with severe atopic dermatitis**

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Cyclosporine A (CSA) is used to treat severe atopic dermatitis (AD) where conventional therapy is either ineffective or inappropriate. Although the majority of evidence exists in adult populations, experience in children is limited.

We describe the case of a 7-year-old girl with severe AD not responding to conventional treatment. Her AD flares were mainly triggered by recurrent *S. aureus* skin infections, which were effectively eradicated with antibiotics in several hospitalizations. Furthermore, specific IgE for milk and nuts were positive and she began a strict elimination diet without clinical skin improvement.

Since her severe AD was not responding to optimized topical therapy, including phototherapy, and other relevant triggers could not be identified, systemic therapy with CS was considered. Standard pediatric dosing of CSA (3–6 mg/kg/day divided twice daily) was prescribed with an expansive set of baseline laboratory tests including, renal, and liver function. CSA treatment rapidly resulted in a sustained reduction in SCORAD index and a significant clinical improvement of pruritus. However, hypertrichosis and gingival hypertrophy were recorded as side-effects. Once in remission (after three months), CSA was tapered and then discontinued with prolonged remission.

Our patient showed an excellent response shortly after initiating CSA therapy with limited side effects. Data on long-term use of CSA in children with severe AD is still not available and common adverse effects may occur. No clear guidelines exist for monitoring adverse effects in children; therefore, CSA administration should only be reserved to severe AD cases refractory to topical therapies.

## **COD. P074**

### **Real-life data on the effectiveness and safety of omalizumab in adolescents with chronic spontaneous urticaria: a retrospective study**

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#### **Introduction**

Chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU) affects approximately 0.1% to 0.3% of children and adolescents. Omalizumab is approved as an add-on therapy for the treatment of CSU in patients (aged > 12 years) with inadequate response to H1-antihistamine treatment. However, there is limited published information based on real-world experience on the use of omalizumab in the subgroup of adolescents with CSU.

#### **Methods**

A single-center retrospective cohort study was performed to assess the efficacy and safety of omalizumab for treatment-refractory CSU in children. Patients previously treated with second-generation antihistamines at a fourfold increased dose without clinical responses at 4 weeks of treatment were selected. The response to therapy was evaluated using urticaria activity score over 7 days (UAS7).

#### **Results**

Eight patients (mean age 16 years) received omalizumab 300 mg subcutaneously every 4 weeks for 6 months. A complete response (UAS7=0) was observed in 7 (87.5%) patients after the first dose of omalizumab and antihistamine therapy was successfully withdrawn. The only non-responder patient showed associated angioedema, which is considered a possible marker of poor response to treatment. No adverse effects occurred in the population treated. Symptom recurrence occurred in 2 patients (25%) at 2 months from the end of the primary therapy. Retreatment with omalizumab was successful without any adverse effects.

#### **Conclusion**

Add-on omalizumab therapy for refractory CSU in adolescents seems to be effective and safe with a relatively low incidence of symptom recurrence. Further research should investigate personalized omalizumab dosages and administration intervals, and the identification of biomarkers for future treatment algorithms.

## **COD. P075**

### **Pediatric eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases: a single-center experience**

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#### **Introduction**

Eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases are rare disorders, defined by the abnormal eosinophilic infiltration of different segments of the gastrointestinal tract. They include eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE), eosinophilic gastroenteritis and colitis, namely EGIDs. The aim of this study is to assess the epidemiological and clinical features of EoE and EGIDs in a small cohort of pediatric patients.

#### **Methods**

A cohort of 19 children and adolescents (3-16 years) was enrolled. At diagnosis we collected clinical data and all patients underwent endoscopy study. Laboratory investigations included total and specific IgE levels and blood eosinophil count.

#### **Results**

Of 19 patients, 14 presented with EoE and 5 presented with EGIDs. In both EoE and EGIDs cohorts, male sex is prevalent compared to female sex (85.7% vs 14.3% and 60% vs 40%, respectively). History of allergic diseases was significantly associated to EoE compared to EGIDs patients ( $p$  0.0052,  $p$  0.0057 and  $p$  0.0183, respectively). Levels of total IgE and eosinophilia were significantly higher in EoE patients compared to EGIDs patients ( $p$  0.0143 and  $p$  0.0340, respectively). In EoE cohort, patients with severe endoscopic lesions and with food impaction showed higher levels of Eo/HPF compared to patients with mild mucosal lesions at endoscopy and GERD-like symptoms. Moreover, patients responding to therapy had lower levels of Eo/HPF.

#### **Conclusion**

Pediatric EoE is significantly associated with atopy, higher levels of peripheral eosinophils and total IgE compared to EGIDs. In EoE patients, disease severity might correlate with higher levels of Eo/HPF in biopsy specimens of esophageal tract.

## **COD. P076**

### **Five children with FPIES in one year: case series**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome (FPIES) is usually a non-IgE mediated disorder. Commonly implicated foods include cow's milk, soy, rice, fish, wheat and chicken. Typical age of presentation is 2-7 months, and diagnosis is often delayed.

#### **PATIENTS AND METHODS**

We describe 5 cases of FPIES diagnosed at our department in 2018.

#### **RESULTS**

Mean age of presentation was 4 months for infants. In three infants the offending food was cow's milk, and in one chicken; in the older child was fish. In all cases, presenting symptoms were repetitive vomiting, lethargy and hypotonia 1-4h after culprit food ingestion.

Three patients were discharged from the ED at least once without recognition of the disease with an alternative diagnosis (gastroenteritis, urinary infection). Only one patient was immediately admitted due to the critical conditions necessitating fluid resuscitation. In one case, blood work (table 1) showed classic acute markers of FPIES; skin tests were negative. All children were diagnosed with food challenge, except the fish allergic one, due to parents' refusal (although anamnesis was unquestionable).

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

FPIES disease presentation is explosive and could be life threatening. The first diagnosis is seldom accurate, and sepsis is the most commonly misdiagnosed condition. The second reported diagnosis is acute dehydration from gastroenteritis, but the clinical evolution of acute FPIES is more serious and rapid, leading to impairment of general conditions in a short time. Repeated severe vomiting, two or more hours after feeding and without skin rash, angioedema and bronchospasm, should raise suspicions for FPIES.

## COD. P077

### Licensed Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine formulations differ markedly in viability and cytokine inducing activity

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**Introduction:** Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG), the live attenuated vaccine against tuberculosis, is the most commonly administered vaccine in history worldwide and currently licenced for use at birth. Epidemiologic studies suggest beneficial effects of BCG against a broad range of pathogens, possibly reflecting heterologous enhancement of innate immune responses. Manufacturing of BCG under different conditions across the globe has generated divergent BCG formulations that differ in clinical efficacy and scar frequency. Recent studies have indicated that viability of BCG is important to its immunogenicity. We hypothesized that licensed BCG formulations may be divergent in their content of viable mycobacteria and induce distinct age-dependent cytokine production. **Methods:** BCG formulations were tested for mycobacterial membrane integrity with flow cytometry, stained for RNA content, and cultured under standardized conditions to determine colony forming units (CFUs). BCG-induced cytokine/chemokine production was measured in cord (N=4-10) and adult (N=7-13) whole blood. Formulations tested included BCG Denmark (DEN), Japan (JPN), India (also known as Russia, produced in Pune) (IND), Bulgaria (BUL) and USA (TICE). **Results:** BCG India demonstrated significantly decreased membrane integrity (65% intact cells) and significantly lower RNA content (54%) compared to the other formulations. Upon culture, BCG India and Bulgaria demonstrated divergent growth and sensitivity to media composition. BCG-induced whole blood cytokine/chemokine pattern differed significantly by age. IFN $\gamma$  showed a delayed response in both age groups, weakest for BCG India. Induction of chemotactic, hematopoietic factors and Th1 cytokines were formulation and dose-dependent: BCG Denmark and Bulgaria produced significantly higher levels at comparable CFU doses, while Denmark and Japan produced significantly higher levels at the human equivalent dose, compared to the other formulations. Whole blood concentrations of BCG-induced pro-inflammatory cytokines and hematopoietic factors correlated with CFU counts, suggesting that BCG viability may be key for immune responses. **Conclusions:** Licensed BCG vaccines differ in their content of intact and culturable mycobacterial cells possibly contributing to distinct induction of chemotactic, hematopoietic factors and cytokines in vitro. Age and formulation-dependent BCG activation of innate and adaptive immunity may contribute to distinct clinical effects of BCG.

## **COD. P078**

### **Riesacerbazioni cliniche dell'Acrodermatite Enteropatica nonostante follow-up ravvicinati.**

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L'Acrodermatite Enteropatica (AE) è una malattia genetica rara a trasmissione autosomica recessiva caratterizzata da: dermatite intertriginosa periorifiziale e acrale, alopecia e diarrea. E' legata al difetto del gene SCL 39A4 che codifica la proteina ZIP4 espressa nel duodeno e nel digiuno, necessaria per l'assorbimento dello zinco. L'AE risponde alla supplementazione orale con zinco con regressione delle manifestazioni cliniche qualche mese dall'avvio della terapia. Presentiamo il caso di un bambino, di origini pakistane a cui, a 9 mesi di vita, abbiamo posto diagnosi di Acrodermatite Enteropatica, confermata da test genetico. E' stata intrapresa terapia con solfato di zinco dapprima alla dose di attacco di 3mg/kg/die con buona risposta dopo 3 mesi e poi a quella di mantenimento di 1 mg/kg/die. Fino al quinto anno di vita il piccolo ha mantenuto livelli di zinco costanti e clinica silente. A Dicembre 2017 a 6 anni, dopo un importante aumento ponderale e dopo flogosi respiratorie, il bambino presentava lesioni vescicolari al cavo orale associate a dermatite acrale e periorifiziale (zinco ai limiti inferiori della norma 59 microgr/dl; v.n. 70-120). La posologia di zinco non era adeguata. Si incrementava la dose, impostando un follow-up a 3 mesi con normalizzazione della clinica e dei valori plasmatici. A novembre 2018 a distanza di circa un anno, dopo un soggiorno prolungato in Pakistan in cui il paziente aveva presentato un importante aumento ponderale, le lesioni erano ricomparse (zinco 21microgr/dl). Si adeguava la posologia. Al controllo ravvicinato a un mese, a dicembre 2018, i livelli di zinco erano in aumento (45 microgr/dl), ma ancora sotto il limite inferiore; le lesioni acrali erano scomparse, persistevano tuttavia quelle al cavo orale. Al successivo controllo di gennaio 2019, i valori di zinco erano nel range di normalità (73 microgr/dl) e le manifestazioni cliniche erano regredite. A febbraio 2019 ad un ulteriore controllo, la clinica era silente e i valori di zinco persistevano nel range di normalità (80 microgr/dl). Il precoce riconoscimento delle lesioni cutanee dell'AE e il repentino avvio della supplementazione orale con zinco è fondamentale per impedire l'insorgenza di complicanze quali: ritardo di crescita, dello sviluppo neuromotorio e infezioni batteriche da S.Aureus per sovrainfezione delle lesioni tipiche della dermatite. Le terapie deve essere strettamente modulata con controlli clinici ravvicinati in particolare in funzione dell'aumento ponderale e di flogosi intercorrenti che potrebbero inficiare l'assorbimento dello zinco e determinare recrudescenza delle manifestazioni cliniche.

**COD. P079**

**Role of ocular cytology in Vernal keratoconjunctivitis**

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**Introduction**

Children with Vernal Keratoconjunctivitis (VKC) present symptoms similar to other ocular allergies, but amplified; they are controlled with local steroids. In order to avoid excessive and extended use of local steroid eyedrops, galenic eyedrops of cyclosporine with a concentration of 1-2% and tacrolimus at 0.1% were introduced as treatment in severe and unresponsive forms. The aim of this study is to assess which are the most frequent cellular types present in the conjunctiva of children affected by VKC, how ocular treatment can influence them, and if affected children express a typical conjunctival pattern, potentially useful as a pathognomonic pattern of VKC, allowing us in the diagnosis of this rare ocular disease.

**Materials and methods**

This is a cohort study of 56 children: 17 of them were receiving no treatment at the time of testing, 14 children were assuming steroid eyedrops or had taken them in the last 10 days, and 25 were treated with cyclosporine eyedrops or tacrolimus eyedrops 0.1%.

**Results**

Children in group 1 (no local therapy) express more epithelial cells, neutrophils, mastcells, eosinophils and lymphocytes than the other two groups, underlying how ocular treatment can influence the composition of the conjunctiva in affected children.

**Conclusions**

If on one hand the conjunctival cytological examination and the search for eosinophils can help to identify VKC and other ocular allergies, especially when the clinical diagnosis is not clear, on the other hand they could allow monitoring of the progress of the disease and of the response to local treatment.

**COD. P080**

**RUOLO DELLA CITOLOGIA OCULARE NELLA CHERATOCONGIUNTIVITE VERNAL**

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La cheratocongiuntivite Vernal (VKC) si manifesta con sintomi simili a quelli della congiuntivite allergica, ma amplificati e controllabili principalmente con l'uso di steroidi locali. Per evitare l'impiego eccessivo di steroidi, negli ultimi 20 anni sono utilizzabili formulazioni galeniche di ciclosporina collirio allo 1-2% e di tacrolimus collirio allo 0,1% per il trattamento delle forme di VKC severe. Abbiamo voluto valutare i tipi cellulari presenti nella congiuntiva di bambini affetti da VKC, come il trattamento locale possa influenzarli, e se esista un pattern congiuntivale caratteristico, considerabile come "patognomonico" della VKC, fornendo così un aiuto nella diagnosi di questa rara patologia oculare immunoallergica. Questo è uno studio di coorte su 56 bambini: 17 di questi non riceveva trattamento al momento del campionamento citologico congiuntivale (gruppo 1), 14 erano in terapia con steroidi locali (o lo erano stati nei 10 giorni precedenti)(gruppo 2) e 25 erano in terapia con ciclosporina all'1% o tacrolimus 0,1% in collirio (gruppo 3). I bambini nel gruppo 1 esprimevano un maggior numero di cellule epiteliali, neutrofili, mastociti, eosinofili e linfociti rispetto agli altri due gruppi, sottolineando come il trattamento locale influenzi la composizione della congiuntiva dei bambini affetti. Anche i neutrofili erano maggiormente presenti nel gruppo 1 rispetto agli altri gruppi, sottolineando come l'immunoflogosi nella VKC sia un fenomeno complesso, che non coinvolge solo eosinofili e mastociti (tipici delle congiuntiviti allergiche), ma anche altre cellule del sistema immunitario. Inoltre la presenza o meno di prick test positivi, di IgE totali aumentate e/o di IgE specifiche positive per allergeni con un'anamnesi familiare positiva per asma o rinite non sembra influenzare la composizione cellulare congiuntivale. Questo potrebbe essere il motivo per cui la VKC mostra solo una risposta parziale alla terapia antistaminica locale, con lieve riduzione del prurito. Quindi, se da un lato l'esame citologico congiuntivale e la ricerca degli eosinofili possono aiutare a individuare la VKC e altre allergie oculari), specialmente quando la diagnosi clinica non è chiara, dall'altro potrebbero consentire il monitoraggio dell'andamento della malattia e della risposta al trattamento locale.

## **COD. P081**

### **Case-control study, treatment with Pidotimod in patients with PFAPA. Preliminary results**

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#### **Introduction**

PFAPA is a periodic fever characterized by aphthous stomatitis, pharyngitis, cervical adenitis. The treatment is symptomatic and based on corticosteroids. Pidotimod (acid 3-L-pyroglutamyl-L-thiazolidin-4-carboxylic) is a synthetic dipeptide, stimulating the innate and adaptive immunity. The aim of our ongoing study is to evaluate the recurrence of febrile episodes in children with PFAPA treated with Pidotimod through a new posology scheme.

#### **Methods**

We randomized 9 patients with PFAPA, aged between 3 and 8 years old, without associated comorbidities, into two groups A and B. The former were treated with Pidotimod 400 mg twice a day and corticosteroids as needed for three months and the latter were treated only with steroids as needed. After 3 months of treatment, each patient switched to the other group.

#### **Results**

2 out of 5 patients in group A completed the treatment presenting only one febrile episode and they did not need corticosteroid therapy; associated symptoms were mild or absent. At the switch, they showed an increased frequency of febrile episodes. 3 children in group A, who had been treated for a month, did not have febrile episodes. In group B, 4 children, during the 3 months treatment, had an average of 3 febrile episodes, severe associated symptoms and needed the administration of steroids.

#### **Conclusion**

The small sample size is a limit to get statistically significant results. Nevertheless our clinical experience, which is still ongoing, showed that pidotimod treatment may be useful for patients with PFAPA.

**COD. P082**

**Formazione in Immunologia per i futuri Pediatri Italiani: l'esperienza del "I corso di Immunologia Pediatrica"**

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**Background**

Per promuovere la cultura dell'Immunologia Pediatrica tra gli specializzandi di tutte le scuole di Pediatria d'Italia, dal 22 al 24 novembre 2019 si è svolto il "I corso di Immunologia Pediatrica" presso l'Università Sapienza di Roma, con il contributo di SIAIP e ONSP. Il corso aveva l'obiettivo di fornire conoscenze e strumenti per elaborare un percorso di diagnosi e terapia da utilizzare nella gestione del paziente con sospetta immunodeficienza primitiva (IDP) ed è stato suddiviso in 3 moduli: fisiopatologia, diagnostica clinica e di laboratorio e terapia. Tutte le lezioni teoriche avevano un'impronta pratica, attraverso esempi clinici, di laboratorio e iconografici e sono state tenute da grandi esperti Italiani nel campo dell'Immunologia

**Material and methods**

Sono stati selezionati 65 partecipanti provenienti da 34 scuole di Specializzazione in Pediatria d'Italia. A fine corso, è stato distribuito un questionario cartaceo in cui si chiedeva di esprimere un loro parere riguardo la propria esperienza sulle IDP maturata nell'Università di appartenenza (quesiti a risposta "si/no" e multipla), il loro interesse nei confronti di questo ambito (risposta multipla) e il livello di gradimento del corso effettuato (risposta multipla e 1 risposta aperta)

**Results**

Dei 65 partecipanti al corso, 51 (78,5%) hanno compilato il questionario. Di questi, 23 (45.1%) erano iscritti al IV anno; 29/51 (56.8%) hanno dichiarato che nella propria scuola è presente l' insegnamento di immunologia pediatrica, 36/51 (70.6%) hanno dichiarato che la propria scuola prevede un'esperienza in un servizio di Immunologia pediatrica, che nel 47.2% è rappresentata da attività di ambulatorio e DH. Al quesito sull'interesse nel lavorare nell'ambito dell'immunologia pediatrica, 27/51 (53%) hanno risposto positivamente. Riguardo il livello di gradimento, 45/51 (88.2%) hanno dichiarato di essere molto soddisfatti, in particolare è stata ritenuta eccellente la qualità delle relazioni, la chiarezza e la disponibilità degli speaker. Nei suggerimenti è stato frequentemente consigliato l'ampliamento della parte pratica con discussione di un numero maggiore di casi clinici, provenienti da tutte le scuole d'Italia. Inoltre, il 100% dei soggetti ha dichiarato di essere favorevole alla ripetizione del corso e il 98% di essere possibilmente interessato ad un corso più specifico ed avanzato sulle IDP con annessa esperienza pratica di laboratorio

**Conclusion**

Il corso è stato molto apprezzato dai partecipanti, che si sono dichiarati favorevoli ad una ri-edizione. In considerazione dell'interesse nei confronti dell'immunologia, è auspicabile l'introduzione di un corso avanzato, come previsto da altre società scientifiche nazionali ed internazionali

**COD. P083**

**Pilot study proposal on non-selective response to vaccination against HBV in children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis**

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The etiology of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) is unknown though some correlations has been found with HLA genes. Since it is known that the immune response to HBV vaccine is largely determined by the presentation of the immunogenic peptides through HLA-DR and DQ molecules, it has been suggested that the presence of some of these haplotypes predisposes to a lower response to this vaccine. Some studies have found that patients affected by coeliac disease and type 1 diabetes mellitus have a less effective response to hepatitis B vaccination. The cause can probably be attributed to patients' genetic predisposition or the inflammatory condition established if the coeliac patient doesn't follow the correct gluten-free diet. In literature we found no studies on HBV vaccination response in patients affected by JIA. We hypothesized to lead a pilot study dosing the antibody titer against mandatory vaccines and lymphocyte activity after stimulation with HBV antigens in all our JIA patients, as well as performing immunological first level exams and HLA genes. Furthermore these same parameters will be studied in two groups of children similar in age and sex: a group of coeliac patients and an healthy control group. We casually found some of our patients affected by JIA without the necessary antibody against HBV, although it has been shown that this may not be correlated with the real ability of the immune system to react to HBV infection. This study may be useful to identify patients susceptible to HBV infection and to improve vaccinal policies.

**COD. P084**

**A case of pine nut allergy in Sardinia**

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**Introduction:**

In the 1958 was described for the first time the IgE-mediated hypersensitivity to pine nut by Santos and Unger. Since then, the reports number describing this allergic reaction has increased, nonetheless pine nut allergy cases are rare worldwide. This allergy appears to be distinguished by low IgE cross-reactivity with other commonly consumed nuts. This abstract aimed to report clinical features and role of skin and vitro tests relating to pine nut allergy in our experience.

**Patients and methods:**

In December 2013 A.P., a nine years old boy, ate for lunch pasta with pesto sauce. Immediately swollen lips-tongue-uvula, crampy abdominal pain, vomiting and generalized hives appeared. He was taken to ER where the anaphylactic reaction was treated with chlorpheniramine and betamethasone. After two months he came to our ambulatory. Firstly, we collected the clinical history, then a prick test with commercially prepared food extracts and a prick-by-prick test with fresh pine nut was performed.

**Results:**

All the common allergens tested were negative but pine nut. Thus, RAST was discharged and the IgE level against pine nut allergens was 30,7 kUA/L. We diagnosed pine nut allergy and we recommended him to avoid it. Three years later accidentally the patient ate pine nuts and a new anaphylactic reaction occurred, so adrenaline was prescribed.

**Conclusion:**

Pine nut can be the trigger of dangerous allergic reactions. In patients with no history of other food allergies, after an accurate anamnesis, a prick-by-prick test with fresh pine nut can be performed easily for the diagnosis.

**COD. P085**

### **L'angioedema del Lunedì**

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#### **L'ANGIOEDEMA DEL LUNEDI'**

AA, 12 anni, maschio. Da circa tre mesi presenza di angioedema, sempre a inizio settimana, coinvolgente solo le labbra. Tale manifestazione non si accompagna mai a segni/sintomi di allergia IgE-mediata; in anamnesi non si evince, inoltre, correlato temporale con l'assunzione di farmaci o alimenti. In relazione al quadro clinico-anamnestico si è ritenuto di non dover eseguire tests allergologici di screening, ponendo diagnosi di ANGIOEDEMA IDIOPATICO RICORRENTE (ARI), che presenta dei connotati peculiari e caratterizzanti rispetto alle condizioni in diagnosi differenziale (orticaria/angioedema IgE-mediati, angioedema ereditario).

Rapida comparsa (1-2 ore) e risoluzione (entro 48 ore), risposta ad antistaminici e/o corticosteroidi, frequenza anche elevata di ricorrenza e coinvolgimento stereotipato delle medesime sedi nello stesso paziente, rappresentano degli elementi distintivi dell'ARI, che rappresenta la forma di angioedema (isolato, senza orticaria) più frequente in età pediatrica. La diagnosi di ARI è clinico-anamnestica, rendendo superflui i vari accertamenti mirati a escludere patogenesi allergica o ereditaria (deficit C1-INH). L'angioedema ereditario (HAE) è una condizione rara, autosomica dominante, causata dal difetto del gene che codifica per il C1-inibitore, localizzato sul cromosoma 11, enzima responsabile della dissociazione del C1 attivato. Il C1, primo fattore della via classica del complemento, è attivato da immunocomplessi e porta alla produzione di peptidi vasoattivi, chemiotattici e pro-anafilattici. Esistono due varianti fenotipiche: tipo 1 (85%, deficit quantitativo) e tipo 2 (deficit qualitativo). L'HAE evolve lentamente all'esordio, in lasso di tempo che può raggiungere anche un'intera giornata, e non regredisce, solitamente, in meno di tre-quattro giorni. Scarsa o nulla risposta ad antistaminici e corticosteroidi e il ruolo facilitatore sulla sua comparsa dei traumi fisici sono ben dimostrati in letteratura. Se l'edema coinvolge il tessuto sottomucoso gastrointestinale intenso dolore addominale, vomito incoercibile e, meno frequentemente, diarrea possono essere presenti. Il coinvolgimento delle prime vie aeree può determinare difficoltà respiratoria, anche severa. A differenza dell'ARI nell'HAE gli episodi possono variare di frequenza tra diversi pazienti e nello stesso paziente in diversi periodi della vita. Ridotti i livelli di C4, clivato dal C1 non inibito.

Il caso è esemplificativo del ruolo diagnostico esclusivo che anamnesi e quadro clinico rivestono in certi casi di angioedema ricorrente, risparmiando a pazienti e familiari reiterati quanto infruttuosi accertamenti e interventi terapeutici.

Ertoy Karagol HI, et al. Angioedema without urticaria in childhood. *Pediatr Allergy Immunol* 2013;24:685-90

**COD. P086**

**Therapeutic options for Vernal Keratoconjunctivitis**

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Vernal keratoconjunctivitis (VKC) is a bilateral, asymmetric, chronic, usually seasonally recurrent, inflammation of the ocular surface. VKC is classified among the allergic conjunctivitis, but its immunopathogenesis remains unknown. Antihistamines, mast cell stabilizers and dual-action drugs eye drops are effective only in mild VKC, with conflicting results in different geographical areas. Topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs reduce ocular inflammation, but they can't replace steroids. Steroid eye drops are the most effective treatment for severe VKC, but prolonged therapy could potentially cause glaucoma, cataract and infections. Sometimes they can't control the disease. Literature lacks precision about ways and times of using steroids in VKC, and the management of these children is often a dilemma. Steroids are prescribed as oral but also as eye drops, sometimes for 2-3 weeks, sometimes in short cycles of 3-5 days, repeatable with variable frequency. The shift from steroids to calcineurin inhibitors sometimes occurs in extremely severe VKC, sometimes in less severe cases. This work proposes a therapeutic algorithm with steroids eye drops (2 drops for eye 3 times day) in short cycles (of 3 days each one), repeatable several times in a month. If 3 or more cycles of dexamethasone sodium phosphate 0.15% eye drops are required in a month primarily in spring, it is necessary to assess eye pressure, corneal integrity and the presence of eye infections, but also to evaluate clinical signs VKC and to start therapy with calcineurin inhibitors (cyclosporine at 1% or tacrolimus at 0.1% eye drops).

**COD. P087**

**Discussione e Proposta terapeutica per il controllo della Cheratocongiuntivite Vernal**

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La cheratocongiuntivite Vernal (VKC) è una malattia della superficie anteriore dell'occhio, bilaterale, asimmetrica, cronica, con recrudescenza stagionale primaverile-estiva, classificata tra le congiuntiviti allergiche, ma la cui immunopatogenesi resta sconosciuta. La terapia prevede l'utilizzo degli stessi agenti topici delle altre forme di congiuntivite allergica. Gli antistaminici topici, gli stabilizzatori di mastociti e quelli a duplice azione alleviano il prurito e inibiscono il rilascio di mediatori mastocitari, ma si sono rivelati efficaci solo nei casi di VKC lieve, o hanno dato comunque risultati contrastanti in diverse aree geografiche. Anche gli antinfiammatori non steroidei (FANS) topici riducono i segni infiammatori oculari, diminuendo, senza essere in grado di sostituire i corticosteroidi e, a volte, sembrano poter determinare danni corneali. I corticosteroidi topici rappresentano il trattamento più efficace per le forme di VKC da moderata a grave, ma il loro utilizzo deve essere rigorosamente limitato e attentamente monitorato a causa delle note complicanze dell'uso a lungo termine di corticosteroidi (glaucoma, cataratta e infezioni oculari secondarie). Tra i diversi corticosteroidi non sempre quelli di superficie si sono dimostrati in grado di controllare la malattia. Manca in letteratura un'indicazione precisa su modi e tempi di utilizzo dei corticosteroidi nella VKC, tanto che a volte vengono prescritti per via generale, ma più spesso colliri cortisonici di superficie o meno, a volte con schemi terapeutici a scalare in 2-3 settimane, altre volte a brevi cicli di 3 o 5 giorni, ripetibili con frequenza variabile. La sostituzione della terapia cortisonica con inibitori della calcineurina avviene anch'esso in modi estremamente diversi, in alcuni casi in forme di VKC estremamente gravi, altre volte in forme meno gravi. Con questo lavoro vogliamo proporre uno schema terapeutico con cicli brevi di colliri cortisonici non di superficie a dosaggio pieno (2 gocce per occhio per 3 volte al dì) per 3 giorni, ripetibili più volte in un mese. Nel caso in cui per controllare la malattia si rivelino necessari, soprattutto nei mesi primaverili, 3 o più cicli di desametasone fosfato sodico 0,15% collirio al mese, viene prescritto controllo entro un mese presso il centro di riferimento per valutare da un lato la pressione oculare, l'integrità corneale e/o la presenza di infezioni oculari intercorrenti, dall'altro la necessità di procedere alla terapia locale con inibitori della calcineurina (ciclosporina collirio all'1% o tacrolimus allo 0,1%) anche in base all'evoluzione dei segni e dei sintomi caratteristici della VKC.

**COD. P088**

**UN CASO DI ANAFILASSI DA SFORZO CORRELATA AD INGESTIONE DI FRUMENTO ED IBUPROFENE**

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Ragazza quattordicenne con comparsa, dopo sport, di rash, angioedema, senso di costrizione in gola, addominalgia, dispnea, obnubilamento del sensorio. Poco prima dell'attività fisica aveva assunto un panino con prosciutto e ibuprofene per dolori mestruali. Regressione della sintomatologia dopo somministrazione di adrenalina. Le ipotesi diagnostiche sono state: FDEIA; mastocitosi sistemica indolente attivata da sforzo fisico; anafilassi ritardata da  $\alpha$ GAL. Gli SPT ad alimenti risultavano positivi per frumento e maiale. L'immunoCAP era negativo per maiale,  $\alpha$ GAL, grano e  $\omega$ 5-gliadina. La negatività per  $\alpha$ GAL e maiale e i normali livelli sierici di triptasi hanno fatto escludere l'anafilassi ritardata da  $\alpha$ GAL e la mastocitosi sistemica indolente attivata da sforzo fisico. Un TPO per grano, un test da sforzo (sia a digiuno che dopo un pasto non contenente grano) sono risultati negativi. È stata posta diagnosi di WDEIA (wheat-dependent exercise induced anaphylaxis) esacerbata da FANS. L'exercise induced anaphylaxis (EIA) è scatenata dall'attività fisica isolata o associata all'assunzione di un pasto (Food-dependent exercise-induced anaphylaxis FDEIA). Nell'ambito della FDEIA distinguiamo la SFDEIA, che insorge per l'ingestione di uno specifico alimento, e la NSFDEIA, dovuta all'ingestione di un pasto imprecisato. Nell'EIA i sintomi insorgono generalmente entro 30 minuti dall'inizio dell'attività fisica, con possibile risoluzione degli stessi, se quest'ultima viene interrotta. Fattori precipitanti la FDEIA sono: intensità e durata dello sforzo, stato di salute, FANS. Molteplici sono gli alimenti implicati nello sviluppo della SFDEIA e i meccanismi eziopatogenetici coinvolti. Per la diagnosi occorre effettuare un test da sforzo a digiuno. Qualora esso risulti positivo sarà fatta diagnosi di EIA; se negativo sarà eseguito un test da sforzo dopo l'assunzione dell'alimento trigger. La positività di tale test permette di porre diagnosi di FDEIA; la sua negatività non ci permette di escluderla. In tal caso occorre eseguire un test da sforzo in presenza di diversi fattori trigger. L'allergene del grano responsabile dell'80% dei casi di WDEIA è l' $\omega$ 5gliadina e nel 20% la HMW-glutenina. L'immunoCAP e lo SPT per grano sono spesso negativi. La sensibilità e la specificità dell'immunoCAP aumentano ricercando le IgE per  $\omega$ 5gliadina e HMW-glutenina. Uno SPT positivo al glutine correla con il riscontro di IgE anti  $\omega$ 5gliadina con sensibilità 100% e specificità 96%. Dopo un pasto a base di frumento, l'assunzione di FANS accompagnata ad attività fisica facilita l'insorgenza di WDEIA in soggetti predisposti. I pazienti con FDEIA devono evitare i fattori trigger, interrompere l'esercizio fisico appena compaiano i primi sintomi e portare con sé l'adrenalina autoiniettabile.

**COD. P089**

**Neutralizing High Mobility Group Box-1 Provides Protection Against Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection**

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**Introduction:** HMGB1 has been recently proposed to serve as a potential biomarker elucidating the link between RSV infection and chronic airway dysfunction.

**Materials and Methods:** Fischer 344 rats were infected with rrRSV. Primary human bronchial epithelial cells and 16HBE14o- were grown in cell culture, and apically infected with rrRSV at an MOI of 1 in the presence or absence of glycyrrhizin, an HMGB1 neutralizing chemical compound.

**Results:** Analysis of HMGB1 in rat's lung homogenates by RT-PCR, ELISA, and Western blot analysis revealed higher concentrations of HMGB1 mRNA and protein in the RSV-infected group ( $p < 0.001$ ). HMGB1 mRNA and protein expression were increased in both primary epithelial cells and 16HBE14o- in response to RSV infection. The peak of mRNA expression measured by Real-time PCR was at 3 h post infection ( $p < 0.0001$ ), while Western blot analysis revealed a peak of HMGB1 increase in expression at 6 h post infection, which was gradually decreased at 24 hours, with a second peak at 48 hours. Immunofluorescence microscopy showed an increased of HMGB1 expression localized in the nuclei at 3-6 h post infection, while a more diffused cytoplasmic pattern was observed at 24-48 h post infection (fig. 1). Live cell fluorescent microscopy of showed a significant decreased in red fluorescent in the infected cells infected when pretreated with Glycyrrhizin. Pretreatment of polarized epithelial cell cultures with Glycyrrhizin significantly decreased rrRSV mRNA in a dose-dependent manner. Additionally, HMGB1 protein was decreased in cells treated with Glycyrrhizin.

**Conclusion:** By selectively inhibiting HMGB1 with glycyrrhizin, we documented a significant reduction in viral mRNA expression.

**COD. P090**

**Visceral leishmaniasis in a child with agammaglobulinemia: a diagnosis to be suspected**

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A 4-year-old child was admitted to hospital with history of recurrent respiratory/intestinal infections and persistent fever. Physical examination showed pallor and splenomegaly. Blood and biochemical tests showed anemia, thrombocytopenia, hyperferritinemia, hypertriglyceridemia, increase of liver enzymes, hypofibrinogenemia, hypoalbuminemia, hyponatraemia, agammaglobulinemia, low level of B lymphocytes and NK cells. Serologic tests for Leishmania were negative. Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), disease characterized by pathological immune activation with clinical manifestations of severe inflammation, was suspected (five of eight HLH 2004 criteria matched). Two forms of HLH are described: primary form (defects of cytotoxicity of T-CD8 and/or NK cells) and secondary "acquired" form related to infections, tumors, autoimmune diseases. After excluding oncological disease etiology performing bone marrow aspirate, Dexamethasone treatment was administrate leading to partial benefit, so post-infectious HLH acquired form was considered. No Amastigotes of leishmania were found on the marrow smear. Real time PCR examination on bone marrow sample previously performed, was positive for leishmanias even in peripheral blood. After liposomal Amphotericin B administration, resolution of fever and improvement of blood chemistry values occurred. Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is a chronic disease that usually occurs with fever, hepatosplenomegaly, pancytopenia and hypergammaglobulinemia. VL associated with HLH is a rare pathological condition, difficult to diagnose due to similar signs and symptoms, especially in this clinical case characterized by absence of hypergammaglobulinemia. Visceral leishmaniasis should, therefore, be seriously suspected in all young patients with sign and symptoms of leishmania and agammaglobulinemia because an early diagnosis will minimize unnecessary hospitalization and potentially harmful investigations and treatments.

**COD. P091**

**Sensibilizzazione ad allergeni molecolari delle graminacee**

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**Introduzione:** Negli ultimi anni le malattie allergiche legate al sistema respiratorio sono in aumento e stanno diventando uno dei maggiori problemi nel mondo industrializzato. Le allergie respiratorie IgE mediate includono disordini quali asma e rino-congiuntivite e sono caratterizzate dalla presenza di IgE specifiche.

**Scopo del lavoro:** Lo scopo del nostro studio è testare l'ipotesi che età, sesso e area di provenienza possano influire sulla sensibilizzazione IgE mediata ai pollini ed in particolare alle graminacee, in un gruppo di pazienti per una sospetta allergia respiratoria.

**Pazienti e metodi:** Sono stati valutati retrospettivamente le caratteristiche quali età sesso e provenienza oltre che i risultati delle IgE specifiche per graminacee di 775 pazienti (457 maschi, 318 femmine) inquadrati e seguiti nell'ambito dell'iter assistenziale diagnostico per sospetta allergopatia presso gli ambulatori specialistici della Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo di Pavia. I pazienti sono stati suddivisi in 9 fasce d'età, sesso e area di provenienza (area urbana, rurale e agricola). Il dosaggio delle IgE oggetto dello studio è stato eseguito con il metodo ISAC e i risultati espressi in ISU-E. Sono stati elaborati i risultati dei seguenti allergeni: Cynodon dactylon d1 (Cynd1), Phleum pratense p1 (Phlp1), Phleum pratense p2 (Phlp2), Phleum pratense p4 (Phlp4), Phleum pratense p5 (Phlp5), Phleum pratense p6 (Phlp6), Phleum pratense p7 (Phlp7), Phleum pratense p11 (Phlp11) e Phleum pratense p12 (Phlp12). Sono stati considerati positivi valori >0,3 ISU-E.

**Risultati:** Analizzando i dati ottenuti si osserva una frequenza maggiore di sensibilizzazione nei pazienti di sesso maschile. Considerando l'età emerge una bassa frequenza di sensibilizzazione nella prima infanzia: i bambini con età < 2 anni presentano valori < 0,3 ISU-E, ad eccezione degli allergeni Phlp1 (0,43 ISU-E) e Phlp5 (0,92 ISU-E). La sensibilizzazione ai nove allergeni analizzati incrementa con l'età con un picco nella fascia compresa tra 18-21 anni (Phlp 1 valore medio 30,9 ISU-E) Nelle fasce successive la sensibilizzazione decresce per tutti gli allergeni. Considerando l'area di provenienza si osserva una maggiore positività per Phlp1, Phlp2, Phlp5 e Phlp6 nell'area urbana, per Cynd1 nell'area agricola, mentre per le molecole Phlp7, Phlp11 e Phlp12 la sensibilizzazione risulta poco comune in tutte le aree prese in considerazione.

**Conclusione:** Dallo studio emerge che la sensibilizzazione alle graminacee può essere influenzata da variabili quali il sesso, l'età e l'area di provenienza. Importante sarà valutare se la sensibilizzazione si associa al disordine allergico.

## **COD. P092**

### **Complement deficiency: true or false?**

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Background: *N. Meningitidis* is a gram-negative bacterium that colonizes nasopharynx. It can sometimes invade the circulatory stream and cause sepsis and meningitis. In particular, this can happen in case of complement deficiency.

Case report: We present the case of a 9-year-old child. Bronchiolitis at 4 months. Varicella when he was 1. Rotavirus gastroenteritis when he was 4. Aphthous stomatitis at 7 years. He is vaccinated for *N. Meningitidis* B and ACWY. He arrived in ER for fever, headache and vomiting. The child was alert but not very reactive and presented a rash with red elements on the trunk and right knee. In the suspicion of meningitis LP was practiced, which showed clear liquor with normal protein and glucose. Film-array was positive on blood for *N. Meningitidis*. Antibiotic therapy was started for 14 days. Tests carried out during hospitalization: blood tests (PCR 0.09, PCT 0.13, WBC 7160, N 35%, L 49%), Ig dosage (normal), immunophenotype (normal), complement (C3 91.4, 90-180; C4 30, 10-40), antibody titres for *Haemophilus*, Tetanus and *Pneumococcus* (normal), expression of perforin (normal), CH50 (9%, 50% - 150%).

Discussion: The marked reduction of CH50 and *N. Meningitidis* infection are highly suggestive signs of complement deficiency. It is possible to suppose that anti-meningococcal vaccination was protective, avoiding the patient to develop lethal infection despite complement deficiency. Furthermore, meningococcal infection may have been caused CH50 reduction. Diagnostic studies are in progress to evaluate complement pathways and to assess if this CH50 reduction was due to meningococcal infection or complement deficiency.

**COD. P093**

**Valutazione dei livelli plasmatici di istamina in una popolazione pediatrica**

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**Introduzione:** L'istamina, o istamina 2-(4-imidazolil) etilamina, è una amina vasoattiva sequestrata principalmente all'interno dei mastociti, e in piccole quantità anche nei granuli dei basofili. Questo mediatore si forma per decarbossilazione enzimatica della L-istidina ad opera della istidina decarbossilasi e viene rilasciato successivamente all'attivazione di queste cellule in caso di ipersensibilità immediata.

**Scopo del lavoro:** In questo studio si è ricercata l'esistenza di cut-off in pazienti pediatrici in quanto attualmente è noto solo il cut-off dell'istamina per la popolazione adulta (1ng/ml).

**Pazienti e metodi:** La casistica presa in considerazione è composta da 369 pazienti (età media di 6.79 anni) afferenti alla Clinica Pediatrica della Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo di Pavia per inquadramento diagnostico per sospetta allergopatia, con prove allergologiche in vivo (prick test per i comuni allergeni) negative. Il campione in plasma da EDTA viene posto in ghiaccio in tempi rapidi e successivamente, dopo centrifugazione a 900g per 10 minuti in ghiaccio, viene stoccato a -20°C fino all'esecuzione del dosaggio che viene eseguito con metodica immunoenzimatica su prelievo periferico.

**Risultati:** La casistica in oggetto è stata suddivisa in 4 fasce di età, < 2 anni, 3-6 anni, 7-13 anni e 14-18 anni. L'analisi dei dati mostra dei valori medi di istamina maggiori per le fasce di età <2 anni ( 2,42) e 13-18 ( 2,32) rispetto alle fasce di età 3-6 (1,66) e 7-13 (1,69).

**Conclusione:** Dall'analisi effettuata emerge che la popolazione pediatrica mostra valori di cut-off per l'istamina più elevati rispetto al cut-off stabilito per la popolazione adulta pari a 1 ng/ml. Perciò sarebbe utile al clinico poter disporre di valori di riferimento pediatrici nel contesto di inquadramento di possibili reazioni allergiche.

## **COD. P094**

### **An uncommon case of food protein induced allergic proctocolitis**

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Food protein–induced allergic proctocolitis (FPIAP) is among the commonest causes of rectal bleeding in infants. FPIAP in breast-fed infants is usually caused by cow's milk, soy, egg in the maternal diet.

A 3-month-old girl was admitted at the pediatrics ward because of blood and mucous in stools since 5 days. She had no other symptoms, except some vomiting episodes in the last few days. She was exclusively breast-fed. She was increasing in weight regularly. On physical examination no abnormalities were found, except for a pale skin. Inflammation markers and abdomen ultrasound were found normal. Due to worsening hematochezia with concomitant anemia, a colonoscopy with biopsy was performed. Microscopical examination revealed a marked increase of eosinophils (> 30 HPF) in the lamina propria, confirming the clinical suspicion of FPIAP. Lab tests revealed eosinophilia (9%, 1,060/mm<sup>3</sup>). Serum sIgE to cow's milk, egg, wheat, rice, soy, egg were negative, as well as culture and antigen detection from stool specimens. Maternal diet without cow's milk proteins was initially started. After two weeks of maternal diet, no clinical improvement was observed and eosinophilia increased (18%); thus wheat, soy and egg were also excluded but rectal bleeding continued. At a more accurate history we found that the infant was given rice-protein hydrolysed milk during the last week as breastmilk was insufficient. After stopping rice formula and beginning maternal exclusion diet for rice and corn the infant began to improve. An elemental formula was introduced.

This case highlights the importance of considering other less common allergens as causative agents of FPIAP in exclusively breast fed infants.

**COD. P095**

**Neonatal food allergies: a possible triggering role of haemolytic anemia and intestinal hypoperfusion. A case report.**

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A.P., born at 36+2 weeks of gestational age. Admitted in Neonatal Pathology department for GA and a significant tachycardia at birth, the baby did not show initially any sign of respiratory distress. Enteral feeding with breast milk and ev hydration were started.

Blood examinations showed severe anemia with reticulocytosis and elevated WBC count. Blood cultures and PCR showed no signs of infection. Maternal indirect Coombs test showed positivity for possible alloantibodies (anti-A and anti-D). Direct Coombs test later revealed positivity for antibodies anti-A and anti-D.

Subsequently, clinical conditions significantly worsened with respiratory distress, pallor, tachypnea, peripheral hypoperfusion, melaena and failure to thrive. Echocardiogram excluded cardiac causes. Two blood transfusions were performed with good clinical response. Antibiotic therapy was also introduced. However, a persistent failure to thrive with loss of almost 20% of the initial weight required parenteral nutrition. Abdominal distension and abundant diarrhea were also associated.

Further evaluations showed hypereosinophilia, never encountered before, and positive Prist test and Rast test for milk proteins. A consistent weight gain, along with an improvement of intestinal signs, was observed after the introduction of hydrolysed-milk formula with a complete normalization of the clinical picture and a rapid increase in the Hb levels.

Intestinal barrier integrity has a key role in the instauration of tolerance to food antigens and in the prevention of food allergies. A significant and prolonged haemolytic anemia with peripheral hypoperfusion and subsequent intestinal mucosal damage could have had an essential role in triggering a precocious and strong immune response.

**COD. P096**

**Diagnostic and therapeutic pitfalls in anaphylaxis treatment in the Pediatric Emergency Department: a multicenter retrospective study**

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**Introduction:** Anaphylaxis is an unexpected life-threatening hypersensitivity reaction. It may resolve spontaneously, but can go through a rapid worsening until death. Anaphylaxis is often under-diagnosed and its first-line treatment, intramuscular (IM) epinephrine, is under-administered, whereas corticosteroids and antihistamines, whose efficacy is questionable, are still over-prescribed. We aimed to evaluate the frequency and the management of anaphylaxis in the Pediatric Emergency Department (PED).

**Methods:** We performed a structured retrospective chart review of patients discharged from the PED of the three main hospitals in the Bologna-city area for allergic reactions or anaphylaxis from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2018 for S.Orsola Hospital and from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2018 for Maggiore and Imola Hospitals.

**Results:** We identified 116 patients (median age 6.1 yrs) meeting the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology anaphylaxis criteria. The most frequently involved allergens were foods (62.1%) and medications (12.9%). 94.8% of patients had cutaneous, 44% respiratory and 47.4% gastrointestinal symptoms. Only 33.6% of the episodes were diagnosed as anaphylaxis; the remaining were defined as allergic reactions. A correct diagnosis was more likely performed in case of higher triage priority [red-yellow (very-moderately critical),  $p < 0.01$ ], objective airway involvement ( $p < 0.01$ ), IM epinephrine administration ( $p < 0.05$ ). Moreover, 42.2% of children presented clear ongoing anaphylaxis symptoms when arriving in the PED: among them, antihistamines were administered in 20.4%, corticosteroids in 83.7% and IM epinephrine only in 28.6%.

**Conclusions:** Anaphylaxis is still under-diagnosed and under-treated in children. A specific training might help to improve its approach in the PED setting.

**COD. P097**

**Was it an Atopic Dermatitis?**

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Background: Hyper-IgE syndrome is a rare Immunodeficiency characterized by recurrent cutaneous abscesses, recurrent pneumonias and serum IgE > 2000 IU / ml and inherited as autosomal dominant and autosomal recessive.

Case report: We describe the case of a 6-year-old girl with clinical history of recurrent impetigo and cutaneous, dental and articular abscesses. Gastrointestinal disorders (abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea) were also reported from birth, despite long-term gluten, chocolate, tomato, egg and milk exclusion diet. Recurrent vaginal and buccal candidiasis, asthmatic bronchitis and an episode of pneumonia were also reported. She was in follow up since two months of life because of the diagnosis of Atopic dermatitis. Admitted at hospital due to the onset of vomiting in apyrexia, she performed complete abdominal echography and brain MRI (both negative) and blood testing showing elevated total serum IgE level (15.000 kU/L). Microbiological tests highlighted the presence of Staphylococcus Aureus on ocular and nasal swabs and in sputum. Prophylactic antibiotic therapy with cotrimoxazol was started. Molecular investigation showed mutation of STAT-3.

Discussion: HIES can be misdiagnosed with Atopic Dermatitis (AD), leading to the onset of severe complications. In fact, skin lesions have some similarities with those of Atopic Dermatitis, but distribution and features are different. Early onset of skin lesions, coexistence of eczema and cutaneous abscesses and recurrence of pulmonary infections should suggest to perform first and second level immunological screening to exclude HIES.

**COD. P098**

**SUSPICION OF ALLERGY TO BETA-LACTAMS IN PEDIATRIC AGE: USE OF BASOPHIL ACTIVATION TEST**

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**Introduction** - The allergy work up for the diagnosis of hypersensitivity to  $\beta$ -Lactams drugs currently requires the execution of correct tests, like skin prick test, intradermal test and oral provocation test, which require an important commitment of resources, in terms of time and money, and a stressful process for young patients. The basophile activation test (BAT) has been proposed as a new diagnostic tool in the allergic work up for the diagnoses of  $\beta$ -Lactams IgE-mediated hypersensitivity in children and adults.

**Patients and Methods** - 55 Childrens, with history of immediate (13) or delayed (42) reactions to Amoxicillin, Amoxicillin-Clavulanate and various Cephalosporines were investigated performing BAT, skin prick test, intradermal test and oral provocation test for the suspect of an IgE-mediated hypersensitivity to this drugs, during years 2015 and 2016.

**Results** - BAT was positive in 19 patients but only two of these patients had a positive oral provocation test result. One patient positive to the oral provocation test had a negative BAT. The others 4 patients with a positive drug allergy work up had a negative BAT result. The Negative Predictive Value (NPV) is 97%. The comparison of commercial allergen and drug from pharmacy shows a positive test for 5 out 7 patient tested for the dilution suggested of the commercial ones, and 4 out 8 patients with drug from pharmacy had positive test at all concentration tested, the other where positive only at the highest.

**Conclusions** - BAT does not seem to be a useful diagnostic exam in an allergy work-up for the diagnoses of hypersensitivity to  $\beta$ -lactams in children for a low sensitivity, but it has a good NPV. The research of new diagnostic tools aimed to simplify the allergy work up of drugs hypersensitivity is an important field of study. Extended studies are important to evaluate the appropriate concentration to be used when using home made preparation of the drug allergens, in order to appropriately set cut-off and reference values.

**COD. P099**

**A case of SMARCD2 gene mutation with neutrophil-specific granule deficiency and severe cutaneous and respiratory infections**

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Introduction Neutrophil-specific granule deficiency (SGD) is a rare congenital disease. 1 In this condition, the neutrophils lack their specific granules and this leads to an impaired function in controlling infections. 2 3 Neutrophil-specific granules develop during granulocyte differentiation, later than primary granules, and this process requires a specific regulation between different genes and transcription factors. 4 Mutations in these genes lead to an interruption in granulocytes maturation and consequently to an increased susceptibility to bacterial and fungal infections. 5 SMARCD2 has been identified recently as an important gene as regards granulocytes differentiation and granules formation. 6 In 2017 Witzel et al. reported 4 patients with SMARCD2 gene mutation. They all presented with delayed separation of umbilical cord, and severe recurrent bacterial infections. Two of them were successfully treated with hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) and 2 died at 1,5 months and 5,5 years respectively. 6 Case report We report here the case of M.M.E.D.J., a girl with neutrophil-specific granule deficiency. In June 2018, when the patient was one month old, she was admitted to the hospital of Vicenza because of failure to thrive, persistent mucocutaneous candidiasis, fever and anemia. A delay in umbilical cord sloughing was also reported. During her stay in the hospital she developed a perianal abscess and recurrent pulmonary infections with isolation of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Therefore, she was treated with broad-spectrum intravenous antibiotics, but without clinical response. Then the patient was transferred to the Department of Pediatrics, ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia, suspecting an immunodeficiency. Immunological investigations and a bone marrow aspiration were performed showing a morphological alteration of the neutrophils with hypogranulation and hyposegmentation. On the basis of these findings, genetic analysis was performed and a mutations in the SMARCD2 gene (1022\_1025delCTTT), coding for a critical regulator of myeloid differentiation, was identified. In November 2018, at six months of age, the patient underwent to a HLA-Matched Sibling Donor hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) with good response. After the HSCT the cutaneous lesions have progressively healed and she has developed no further infections. She developed a cutaneous and intestinal graft versus host disease, which was treated with systemic corticosteroids, with clinical improvement. Now she is in good condition.

**COD. P100**

**Possible lymphocyte-mediated mechanisms for swordfish anaphylaxis: a pediatric case report**

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**Introductions:** The exact pathogenic mechanisms of fish allergy are scarcely known. **Patient and Methods:** An 11-year-old child was admitted to hospital presenting diffuse urticaria, facial oedema, abdominal pain, vomiting, and hypotension after swordfish ingestion. Blood exams documented: high tryptase value (24,9 µg/L), total IgE 659 KU/L, but no IgE to common fish. Intravenous corticosteroids and antihistamines were administered and patient discharged after 24 hours. A swordfish free diet with consumption of other fish types was administered, with no allergic reactions. Microarray (ISAC test) for food, basophil activation test for dyes and preservatives and swordfish specific IgE were negative, suggesting the absence of hypersensitivity to swordfish. Based on these data, the parents reintroduced by themselves swordfish and anaphylaxis recurred again. Prick tests were not performed due to the recent anaphylaxis episode, so lymphocyte subpopulations and proliferation tests were performed both on the patient and on a healthy donor (HD). **Results:** Incubation of patient's peripheral blood mononuclear cells with raw and cooked swordfish extract, showed B cells proliferation (stimulation index 3.7 and 2 respectively), while no response in the HD. Lymphocyte subpopulations showed higher B memory cells and lower T-regulatory cells compared to the HD (14.5% and 1.7% vs 5.3% and 4.9% respectively). **Conclusion:** Swordfish could have induced a non-IgE-mediated anaphylaxis. Clinical data and proliferative response confirm swordfish's ability to act as antigen to induce a cell-mediated response. Moreover, the documented low levels of Treg lymphocytes could probably predispose to lack of tolerance and to the development of an immune reaction in an IgE-independent way

**COD. P101**

**Due casi di asma grave non allergica con alveolite eosinofila**

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Introduzione Mepolizumab è un anticorpo monoclonale umanizzato (IgG1, kappa), che antagonizza, l'interleuchina-5 (IL-5), responsabile dell'infiammazione eosinofila, inibendo l'interazione circolante con il suo recettore. Mepolizumab è stato approvato per il trattamento dell'asma grave eosinofila, nei soggetti di età superiore ai 12 anni e recentemente l'EMA ne ha approvato l'indicazione per i bambini di età pari o superiore ai 6 anni. Uno studio open-label, condotto in 36 bambini asmatici di età compresa tra 6 e 11 anni, ne ha dimostrato efficacia e sicurezza al dosaggio di 40mg somministrato per via sottocutanea ogni quattro settimane. Metodi G.J. 8 anni, e C.A. 12 anni, presentano asma non-allergica dall'età di 5 anni, non controllata nonostante terapia steroidea inalatoria a dosaggio elevato + broncodilatatori a lunga durata d'azione (LABA) e terapia steroidea sistemica (rispettivamente 1mg/kg/die, cACT 15 e 0.5mg/kg/die, cACT 9) ed ipereosinofilia ematica (rispettivamente eosinofili 1070/mm<sup>3</sup> e 700/mm<sup>3</sup>). La broncoscopia con broncolavaggio documenta alveolite eosinofila (rispettivamente eosinofili 19,4% e 4.9%). G.J. presenta ostruzione bronchiale grave (FEV<sub>1</sub> 63%, FEF<sub>25-75</sub> 33%), mentre C.A. mostra normale funzionalità respiratoria, con mancata risposta al test di broncodilatazione. Vengono pertanto trattate con Mepolizumab rispettivamente al dosaggio di 40 mg e di 100 mg somministrate per via sottocutanea, ogni quattro settimane, come da indicazioni terapeutiche. Risultati Dopo la seconda somministrazione di Mepolizumab, si osserva una normalizzazione dell'eosinofilia periferica e dopo quattro somministrazioni si ottiene un completo controllo dell'asma (rispettivamente cACT 23 e 25). La terapia steroidea sistemica viene gradualmente ridotta dalla seconda somministrazione e sospesa dopo la quarta somministrazione, documentando prove di funzionalità respiratoria sempre nella norma. Conclusione Mepolizumab può rappresentare uno strumento promettente ed efficace per il trattamento dell'asma eosinofila grave nella popolazione pediatrica, anche al di sotto dei 12 anni di età, permettendo di ridurre la posologia dello steroide sistemico fino alla sua sospensione, con notevole e rapido miglioramento della funzionalità respiratoria.

## COD. P102

### Improvement in nasal reactivity after two years of grass pollen SLIT treatment in children with allergic rhinitis

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#### Background:

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) guidelines recommend immunotherapy (AIT) as the only treatment capable to obtain long-term clinical benefits, trying to modify the natural history of allergic diseases. In particular, sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT) offers the possibility of home administration, improving patient comfort and compliance. The primary outcome of this study is to evaluate the change in nasal reactivity after treatment with AIT in children allergic to grass pollen. Methods: In a period between September 2016 and June 2018, an observational monocentric prospective study was conducted in the Allergy Service of the Pediatric Department of Policlinico Umberto I "Sapienza" Rome. A group of 30 children (aged between 6 and 12 years old) with a persistent allergic rhinitis (PAR) sensitized to grass pollen, were enrolled and divided into the following groups: - treated group (TG): 15 children, that received oral immunotherapy for grass pollen SULGEN® (Roxall, Italy) perlingual spray- non treated group (nTG): 15 children that continued the standard therapy. All children performed 3 visits in total: V0 (September 2016), V1 (June 2017) and V2 (June 2018), during which they performed the dosage of the specific IgE in nasal lavage (Phl p1, Phl p5, Phl p7, Phl p12), the active anterior rinomanometry (AAR) with the evaluation of the mean nasal flow (mNF) and a specific nasal provocation test (NPTs) for grass pollen. Results: In the nTG we found: - a reduced mNF in V2 vs V0; - NPTs positivized in a percentage like a 30% in V2 vs V0; - increased Phl p1, Phl p5, Phl p7 and Phl p12 levels in V2 vs V0; In the TG we observed: - a statistically significant mNF increase in V2 vs V0 and in comparison with the nTG ( $p = 0.000$ ); - NPTs negativized in a percentage equal to 71.43% in V2 vs V0; - Phl p1 ( $p=0.000$ ), Phl p5 ( $p=0.001$ ), Phl p7 ( $p=0.002$ ) and Phl p12 ( $p=0.025$ ) levels statistically significantly reduced in V2 vs V0; Conclusion: The preliminary analysis of these data suggests to increase the study sample size in order to support, with objective functional parameters, SLIT efficacy on the reactivity of the nasal mucosa and not only in clinical parameters.

**COD. P103**

**NASAL OBSTRUCTION AND RECURRENT RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS: THE ROLE OF MICROBIOTA**

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Background: Allergic Rhinitis (AR) and adenoidal hypertrophy (AH) are very common diseases during childhood and it is known that these conditions are associated to recurrent respiratory infection (RRI). Pidotimod is licensed as immunostimulatory drug for use in subjects 3 years of age or older with an immunomodulatory activity that involves adaptive and innate immunity. Methods: We enrolled 76 children between 5-12 years old, during the autumn 2017. Children with nasal obstruction due to AR and sensitized to mites entered the AR group; those with AH entered the AH group or AR/AH group if both conditions had been diagnosed. Children without nasal obstruction nor sensitized were enrolled as controls. At the first visit T0 they performed: skin prick tests (SPTs), nasal fiberoptic endoscopy (NFE), active anterior rhinomanometry (AAR) and a microbiological evaluation with nasal swabs. Children with AR and/or AH started the treatment with Pidotimod® VALEAS (1 vial per day for 30 days) and after one month they were re-evaluated with the same procedures as the enrollment. The primary outcome was to evaluate the variation of nasal obstruction from baseline to 30 days after Pidotimod treatment. The secondary outcomes was the evaluation of any changes in the composition of the nasal microbial flora before and after Pidotimod treatment. Results: After 30 days of Pidotimod treatment, all patients improved their mean nasal flow (mNF) with a statistically significant increase, respect to the baseline value for all the groups ( $p \leq 0.001$ ). The best response was observed among AR children where the mNF values reached that one of controls. The intra-group comparison showed that mNF of AH group, regardless of the presence or absence of a concomitant AR, was not only significantly lower than the value of the controls ( $p \leq 0.000$ ), but also that of the AR group ( $p \leq 0.001$ ). About the microbial species, we did not found any significant statistically differences in the nasal bacteria among all the groups at the two different time points. Conclusion: This is the first study that correlates the benefits of Pidotimod treatment on the nasal function in association to a microbiological study of the nasal microflora. Additional studies with a longer period of observation are requested to evaluate if Pidotimod is able to reduce the consumption of steroids and antihistaminic drugs for the treatment of children with AR and/or AH.

**COD. P104**

**CD45LOW AND CD45HIGH HUMAN INTERLEUKIN-10 (IL-10) PRODUCING B REGULATORY CELLS DEPEND VARIABLY ON BTK AND MTOR FOR SURVIVAL AND IL-10 PRODUCTION**

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Background: B regulatory cells (Bregs) represent a recently identified B cell subset with particular immunoregulatory properties, able to produce Interleukin-10 (IL-10). Bregs have been extensively studied in various autoimmune and immunomediated disorders. One of the major experimental approaches applied in human Breg induction involves Toll-like receptor 9 (TLR9) activation via CpG stimulation of human B cells. On the other hand, the AKT/mTOR axis plays important role in TLR-dependent B cell activation. To date, limited data on the potential role of BTK and/or mTOR in the induction and function of Bregs in humans are available. Methods: flow cytometry, in vitro IL-10 production, in vitro BTK and mTOR inhibition. Results: Our data show for the first time that human Bregs upon CpG stimulation can be divided in CD45lo and CD45hi IL-10 producing B cells. Both CD45lo and CD45hi, the latter to a higher extent, depend on BTK, but not mTOR for cell survival. Regarding IL-10 production, both subsets, ie CD45lo and CD45hi, depend on BTK and mTOR for IL-10 production, with the CD45hi population showing a higher sensibility to the inhibition of both pathways. Conclusions: These data provide the first evidence for a phenotypic and functional division of human Bregs in CD45lo and CD45hi B cells, with both subsets resulting dependent on Btk for survival and on BTK and mTOR for IL-10 production, with the CD45hi subset showing increased dependence on both pathways.

**COD. P105**

**Rac2 regulates human NK cell biology**

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Introduction. Rac2, through the Rac activator DOCK2, has been implicated in Natural Killer (NK) cell biology and functions. Interestingly, DOCK2 deficient patients affected with combined immunodeficiency show NK cell defects. We have recently identified a RAC2 activating mutation resulting in combined immunodeficiency in three familiar cases. Results. Thus, we decided to investigate the effect of the Rac2 activating mutation on patients' NK cells. All patients showed normal percentages of circulating NK cells; however absolute NK cell numbers were reduced due to the constant lymphopenia. Patients' NK cells showed reduced expression of the activating receptor CD16 and Natural Cytotoxicity Receptors (NCRs) NKp46 and NKp30 as well as a reduced expression of CD57 and CD62L, typical maturation markers of human NK cells. Evaluation of chemokine receptor expression pattern showed a marked reduction for both CXCR1 and CCR7 receptor. Together, these data suggest a potential involvement of Rac2 in peripheral human NK cell maturation and migration. Functional evaluation was also performed: degranulation assay, measured as CD107a expression, resulted significantly increased in the Rac2 mutated NK cells patients, at steady state, confirming an activating effect of the RAC2 mutation. However, upon IL-2 stimulation, patients' NK cells showed defective degranulation against the K562 cell line, underlining an intrinsic role for RAC2 in human NK degranulation. IFN-gamma production in Rac2 mutated NK cells upon in vitro stimulation with IL-12 plus IL-18 did not result significantly impaired; however, a reduced proliferative response, based on Ki-67 intracellular expression, was observed. Conclusions. In conclusion, our data suggest that Rac2 play a critical, previously unrecognized role in human NK biology, in terms of maturation, proliferation and cytotoxicity.

## COD. P106

### A monoallelic activating mutation in RAC2 resulting in a combined immunodeficiency

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Background: Rac2, a Rho family GTPase expressed only in hematopoietic cells, is essential for neutrophil function, including the oxidative burst. Heterozygous mutations in RAC2, resulting in a dominant negative effect, are associated with defective oxidative burst and impaired actin polymerization in neutrophils. Objective: We investigated the etiology of an autosomal dominant combined immunodeficiency characterized by recurrent sinopulmonary infections, cutaneous and mucosal viral infections, severe lymphopenia, hypogammaglobulinemia. Methods: Whole exome sequencing was performed on three related patients. Immunophenotyping and studies of T and B cell function were performed using flow cytometric analysis. Rac2 activity was assessed using a Rac2 pull-down assay. Results: The three patients shared a heterozygous activating mutation in RAC2 that increases GTP binding, leading to Rac2 hyperactivation. The patients' neutrophils have increased actin polymerization and enhanced oxidative burst. Patients' T and B cell showed increased apoptosis as well as accumulation of senescent CD8+CD57+ T cells, which are also features of activated protein kinase delta syndrome caused by gain-of-function variants in PI3K. Rac2 is known to bind to the p85 subunit of PI3K, thereby contributing to PI3K and Akt activation. The patients' T cells exhibited increased Akt phosphorylation, providing the mechanistic basis for the clinical similarities between our patients and those with activated protein kinase delta syndrome. Conclusion: We have identified a novel combined immunodeficiency due to a gain-of-function heterozygous mutation in RAC2, resulting in lymphopenia, impaired T and B cell survival, and increased activation of the PI3K-Akt axis.