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Regulatory role of microRNAs in severe asthma



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3rd International Conference on Integrative Biology Valencia, Spain, August 04-06 2015





INSTITUT UNIVERSITAIRE DE CARDIOLOGIE ET DE PNEUMOLOGIE DE QUÉBEC

INTRODUCTION



- Severe asthma is characterized by persistent airway obstruction and frequent exacerbations despite high-dose of corticosteroids.
- Represents a small proportion of the overall asthmatic population but contributes disproportionately to health care costs.
- Severe asthma is a complex disease characterized by various clinical, physiological and immunological phenotypes.



- Increased smooth muscle mass
- Reticular Basement membrane thickening
- Increased angiogenesis
- Epithelial thickness

- Th2 high/Low
- Th17
- Eosinophilic/Neutrophilic
- Fibrogenic cytokines

Functional role of airway epithelium



•Bronchial epithelium forms a dynamic barrier that protects the mucosa from inhaled pollutants and infectious agents.

•The airway epithelium protects the internal milieu of the lung by secreting mucus and by signalling and interacting with the innate and adaptive immune systems through the secretion of cytokines and chemokines

Functional and structural alteration of airway epithelium in asthma



- Bronchial epithelium activity is disturbed: increased secretion of mucins, increased production of cytokines and growth factors
- Bronchial epithelium phenotype is altered: high expression of hsp, p21^{waf}, NF-KB
- Bronchial epithelium has an altered response to injury and has an abnormal repair
- Structural alteration



HAJ SALEM et al Allergy 2015

Cohen et al 2007

Epithelial cell proliferation in severe asthma







HAJ SALEM et al 2015





miRNAs and airway Epithelium in Asthma

Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2012 Nov 15;186(10):965-74. doi: 10.1164/rccm.201201-0027OC. Epub 2012 Sep 6.

Airway Epithelial miRNA Expression Is Altered in Asthma

Owen D. Solberg^{1,2*}, Edwin J. Ostrin^{2*}, Michael I. Love¹, Jeffrey C. Peng¹, Nirav R. Bhakta¹, Lydia Hou¹, Christine Nguyen², Margaret Solon¹, Cindy Nguyen¹, Andrea J. Barczak^{1,2}, Lorna T. Zlock³, Denitza P. Blagev^{1,2}, Walter E. Finkbeiner³, K. Mark Ansel⁴, Joseph R. Arron⁵, David J. Erle^{1,2*}, and Prescott G. Woodruff^{1,2*}

¹Cardiovascular Research Institute, ²Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine ³Department of Pathology, and ⁴Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, California; and ⁵Genentech, Inc., South San Francisco, California

- Decreased expression of miR-34/449 family (miR-34c-5p, miR-34c-5p, miR-449a, and miR-449b-5p)
- Repression by IL-13 of miR-34/449 family
- miR-449 inhibits NOTCH1 gene



Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol. 2012 Oct;47(4):536-42. doi: 10.1165/rcmb.2011-0160OC. Epub 2012 Jun 7.

Distinct MicroRNA Expression in Human Airway Cells of Asthmatic Donors Identifies a Novel Asthma-Associated Gene

Melanie J. Jardim¹, Lisa Dailey¹, Robert Silbajoris¹, and David Diaz-Sanchez¹

¹National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Environmental Public Health Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Chapel Hill, North Carolina



Increased expression of miR-203 (regulation of AQP4 transcript)



hsa-miR-19a differentialy expressed in severe asthma



NBEC: Normal controls **ABEC**: Mild asthmatics **SABEC**: severe asthmatics

miR-19a



MicroARN-19a a member of miR-17~92 cluster



MiR-17~92 cluster involved in cell proliferation and differentiation Dev Biol. 2007 October 15; 310(2): 442-453.

Transgenic over-expression of the microRNA *miR-17-92* cluster promotes proliferation and inhibits differentiation of lung epithelial progenitor cells

Yun Lu¹, J. Michael Thomson², Ho Yuen Frank Wang¹, Scott M. Hammond^{2,3}, and Brigid L.M. Hogan^{1,*}



miR-17-92 cluster regulates cell proliferation







Down-regulation with miR19a inhibitor

SABEC SABEC + scramble miR SABEC + miR-19a inhibitor









in silico search for miR-19a targets using TargetScan, miRDB, miRTarBase and MicroCosm databases

TGFβ **RII a Potential direct target of miR-19a**

TGF-β RII: Potential target of miR19-a



miR19-a regulates TGF-β signalling pathway



HAJ SALEM et al Allergy 2015

TGF-β RII: Potential target of miR19-a

hsa-miR-19a 3' AGUCAAAACG-UAUC------UAAACGUGU 5' IIII I IIII IIIII IIIII

Human	AGGAAAUGAGAUUGAUUUUUACAAUAGCCAAUAACAUUUGCACUUUAUUAAUGCCU
Chimpanzee	AGGAAAUGAGAUUGAUUUUUACAAUAGCCAAUAACAUUUGCACUUUAUUAAUGCCU
Gorilla	AGGAAAUGAGAUUGAUUUUUAAAAUAGCCAAUAACAUUUGCACUUUAUUAAUGCCUGU
Orangutan	AGGAAAUGAGAUUGAUUUUUACAAUAGCCAAUAACAUUUGCACUUUAUUAAUGCCUGU
Macaque	AGGAAAUGAGAUUAAUUUUUACAAUAGCCAAUAACAUUUGCACUUUAUUAAUGCCUGU
Marmoset	AGGAAAUGAGAUUGAUUUUUACAAUAGCCAAUAACAUUUGCACUUUAUUAUUGCCUGU
Mouse	AGGAAAUGAGAUUGAUUUUUACAACAGCCAAUAACGUUUGCACUUUAUUAAUGCCUGU

hsa-miR-19a 3' AGUCAAAACGUAUC-UAAACGUGU 5' IIIIII IIIIII

	Human	UCACA COCA COUNTRA COA CAUTICO CUTICO A A AUXALICA UNA COCUCOCUA COA CUTICA
	Chimpangaa	OCACAGECAGECAGECOGECOOGECOOGECAGEAGEAGEAGECECOGECECAGEACEO
	chimpanzee	UCACAGCCAGCUAUGACCACAUUGCACUUGCUUUUGCAAAAUAAUCAUUCCCUGCCUAGCACUU
	Gorilla	UCACAGCCAGCUAUGACCACAUUGCACUUGCUUUUGCAAAAUAAUCAUUCCCUGCCUAGCACUU
	Orangutan	UCACAGCCAGCUAUGACCACAUUGCACUUGCUUUUGCAAAAUAAUCAUUCCCUGCCUAGCACUU
	Macaque	UCACAGCCAGCUAUGACCACAUUGCAGUUGCUUUUGCAAAAUAAUCAUUCCCUGCCUAGCAGUU
	Marmoset	UCACAGCCAGCUUUGACCACAUGGCACUUGCUUUUGCAAAAUAAUCAUUCCCUGCCUAGGGGUU
	Mouse	UUGCAGCCUGCUUUGGCCACAAAACACUUUGUUUUGCAAUAAUGACCCUCUACAGUAGGGUG

hsa-miR-19a 3' AGUCAAAACUCU-AAACGUGU 5' IIII III IIIIII

Human	AGUGA AGCCA CUUULA LA AUAUUUGGA GAUUUUGGA GGA A AUCUGGAUCCCCA GGUA AGGAUAG
Chimpanzee	
Gorilla	
Orangutan	
Viangutan	AGOGAAGCCACOUQAGAAADAOOUGGAGGAOOUOGCAGGAAAAOCOGGAOCCCCCAGGOAAGGAAAG
macaque	AGUGAAGCCACOUUAUAAAUACAUGGAGAUUUUGCAGGAAAAUCUGGAUCCCCAGGUAAGGAGAG
Marmoset	AGCGAAGCCAUGUUAUAAAUAUUUGGAGAUUUUGCAGAAAAAUCUGGAUCCCCAGGUAAGGAUGG
Mouse	AGUUGAGCUUCUUUAGAACUAUUUGG-GAGGUUGCAGAGAAGCUUAGAUUCCCCCAAUAAGCAGAG



Interaction of miR19a-TGFβRII 3'UTR











Up-regulation of CDKN2B (p15)







CONCLUSION



- Mir19-a is a miRNA signature of bronchial epithelial cells in severe asthma.
- MiR-19a down-regulates the expression of the *TGFβRII* gene leading to p15 (*CDKN2B*) repression and then to the epithelium thickness observed in severe asthmatic patients.
- Our study uncovers a new regulatory pathway involving miR-19a in severe asthma.
- Down-regulation of miR-19a expression may be explored as a potential new therapy to modulate epithelium repair in asthma.

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