THE UROTENSIN-II RECEPTOR: A NEW PREDICTIVE MARKER OF STAGING OF ULCERATIVE COLITIS AND THERAPEUTIC RESPONSE TO INTRAVENOUS STEROID ADMINISTRATION

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023 | Poster

IBD

October 15, 2023

Urotensin II receptor expression correlates with ulcerative colitis disease severity and predicts intravenous steroid treatment response in newly diagnosed patients.

KEY POINTS

- In 100 newly diagnosed UC patients, UTR expression measured by qPCR, Western Blot, and immunohistochemistry was significantly higher in lesioned mucosa compared to 44 healthy controls and directly correlated with clinical, endoscopic, and histologic severity scores
- Among 72 patients with acute severe UC requiring intravenous steroids, the 32 non-responders showed significantly elevated UTR expression compared to 40 responders across all measurement methods
- qPCR measurement of UTR expression demonstrated superior predictive performance for steroid non-response (AUC 0.99) compared to the established ACE index (AUC 0.94)
- All 40 steroid responders achieved full response with at least two-point reduction in Full Mayo Score at one-month follow-up colonoscopy
- This study enrolled patients at first UC diagnosis and suggests UTR may serve as both a severity marker and predictor of steroid treatment outcomes in the acute severe UC setting

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