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Summary

JAK/STAT PATHWAY AND IL-6 ACTIVITY IN MODERATE TO SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023 Poster

IBD

October 15, 2023

An ongoing prospective study of 19 ulcerative colitis patients demonstrates that while IL-6 is elevated in inflamed colon and every patient shows activation of the JAK/STAT pathway, the specific pattern of JAK and STAT kinase phosphorylation differs across individuals.

KEY POINTS

- All 19 patients with endoscopically active ulcerative colitis showed at least one phosphorylated JAK protein and one phosphorylated STAT protein in inflamed colonic biopsies, but the activation pattern of the JAK/STAT pathway was different in every patient.
- IL-6 was increased in inflamed colonic biopsies (median 41.5 pg/ml for MES-2 and 51.9 pg/ml for MES-3) but was not detected in non-inflamed mucosa (p=0.00).
- The study measured phosphorylated forms of JAK1, JAK2, JAK3, TYK2, STAT1, STAT3, and STAT4 by Western blot in biopsies from both inflamed and non-inflamed colon of each patient.
- This work is relevant to clinicians seeking to understand individual pathway activation profiles in ulcerative colitis patients for potential treatment personalization.

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