994. Comparison of Lactate, Procalcitonin and a Gene Signature Assay Alone or in Combination to Distinguish Sepsis from Non-infectious Systemic Inflammation in ICU Patients
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Session: P-56. Microbial Pathogenesis
Background. Procalcitonin (PCT) and serum lactate (L) are measures of bacterial infection and tissue hypoxia, respectively, but also used to discern sepsis from infection negative systemic inflammation (INSI). However, improved tools are needed to enhance this differentiation. A previously validated gene signature assay (SeptiCyte RAPID) and its correlated score (SeptiScore (SS)) has been reported to effectively differentiate sepsis from INSI.

Objective. To compare early L, PCT and SS results (alone or in combination) in differentiating sepsis from INSI in adult intensive care unit (ICU) patients (Pt).

Methods. Data from a previously reported, prospective study (8 sites). Inclusion criteria: (i) ICU admission with ≥ 2 signs of systemic inflammatory response syndrome; (ii) Therapeutic antibiotic administration; (iii) external 3 physician clinical review classifying each Pt as sepsis or INSI with ≥ 2 reviewer agreement; (iv) L, PCT & SS values within 24 hrs of ICU admission; (v) Statistical Analysis; (vi) Area under the receiving operator curve (AUROC), 95% confidence intervals (CI) via generalized linear models for: (i) Each parameter alone (L, PCT, SS); (ii) Combinations (L + PCT, L + SS, PCT + SS, All 3); (iii) AUROC discriminated Sepsis from INSI model: (a) < 0.7 Sub-Optimal; (b) 0.7-0.8 Good; (c) > 0.8 Excellent. Comparisons conducted via paired t-test.

Results. 222 pts, sepsis=113; INSI=109. Similar demographics between groups (NS). Mortality (SD) = 57.9 (17.1) yrs; 58.1% male. Overall mechanically ventilated 60.8% and hospital mortality 17.1%. AUROC (95% CI) in Table and Figure; AUROC of L, PCT or SS alone or in combination

|        | L | PCT | SS | ALL |
|--------|---|-----|----|-----|
| Alone  | 0.56 (0.48-0.64) | 0.76 (0.70-0.83) | 0.85* (0.80-0.90) | ALL  |
| L      | 0.76 (0.70-0.82) | 0.85* (0.80-0.90) |     | ALL  |
| PCT    |              | 0.86* (0.81-0.91) |     | ALL  |
|          | 0.86* (0.81-0.91) |             |     | ALL  |

*p<0.01 SCR vs L or PCT combination

Conclusion. L is sub-optimal in discriminating sepsis from INSI. PCT with or without L was acceptable but not as robust as SS. SS alone or in any combination provided superior and significant discrimination between sepsis and INSI. Incorporation of SS into an integrated assessment process for suspected sepsis pts should be evaluated to determine the impact on early detection and Pt management.

995. A Murine Model of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* Gastrointestinal Colonization with Parenteral Vancomycin Administration
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Session: P-56. Microbial Pathogenesis
Background. As a leading cause of nosocomial infections, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* poses a significant threat due to its propensity to acquire resistance to many classes of antibiotics, including carbapenems. Gastrointestinal (GI) colonization by *K. pneumoniae* is a risk factor for subsequent infection as well as transmission to other patients. To study this crucial step in pathogenesis, we developed a mouse model of *K. pneumoniae* GI colonization using a clinically relevant parenteral antibiotic regimen.

Methods. To improve the clinical relevance of our model, we elected to use intra-peritoneal injections of vancomycin, one of the most highly utilized antibiotics in the United States.

Results. To optimize dosage in C57bl/6 mice, we injected 20mg/kg, 350mg/kg, or vehicle (PBS) for three days prior to gastric gavage with 10⁵ colony forming units (CFU) of a low-resistance strain of *K. pneumoniae*. The mice who received 350mg/kg (a mouse equivalent of a human dose of 1g/day calculated through the FDA guidelines for estimating safe dosing) shed about 10⁷ CFU/g of feces at Day 7 while those receiving the lower dose or vehicle shed 10⁶ CFU/g. Next, we compared 3- or 5-day pre-treatments with vancomycin prior to inoculation with an ST258 (epidemic carbapenem-resistant) strain. At Day 7 post-inoculation, mice which received 5 days shed 10⁷ CFU/g feces while those who received vancomycin for 3 days or vehicle for 5 days (PBS) shed 10⁶ or 10⁵ CFU/g feces respectively. Thus, we chose 5 days of 350mg/kg vancomycin injection as our regimen for inducing robust GI colonization in mice.

Finally, we tested the durability of colonization by following fecal shedding in mice up to Day 60 post-inoculation with a second ST258 strain. Shedding during the first 7 days occurs at about 10⁶ CFU/g feces, and from day 14 to day 60 fecal loads are stable around 10⁷ CFU/g feces. Results are comparable between male and female mice.

Conclusion. In conclusion, we have developed a mouse model of robust, prolonged GI colonization with multiple strains of *K. pneumoniae* using controlled dosing of a clinically relevant antibiotic. This model may be used to study a key step in *K. pneumoniae* pathogenesis and infection prevention in the future.

Disclosures. All Authors: No reported disclosures

996. CD4+ T-Cell Lymphopenia Associated with Frequent Plateletpheresis in Healthy Donors
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Session: P-56. Microbial Pathogenesis
Background. Frequent plateletpheresis using the Time Accel leukoreduction system chamber may result in lymphopenia in healthy donors, with increased donation in the previous year associated with CD4+ T-cell count of less than 200 cells/µL. However, this finding has not been replicated and the clinical significance of plateletpheresis-associated lymphopenia remains unclear.

Methods. A prospective observational study of healthy plateletpheresis donors aged 18 or older who donated at least once in the previous 365 days was conducted at the Kraft Blood Center at Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Dana Farber Cancer Institute, where the Time Accel system is used exclusively. Blood was drawn immediately before plateletpheresis or at least 2 weeks after the last donation to assess for total lymphocyte and CD4+ T-cell counts.

Results. A total of 86 participants were enrolled: 23 had 1-5 donations, 36 had 6-19 donations, and 27 had 20 or more donations within the previous 365 days (Figure 1). For the low-, medium- and high-frequency donation groups, the median age was 53 years (IQR 43-64), 61 years (IQR 53-68), and 61 years (IQR 55-65), respectively. The median total lymphocyte count was 1.5 (IQR 1.3-1.9), 1.2 (IQR 0.9-1.5), 0.8 (IQR 0.6-0.9) 10⁹ cells/µL and the median CD4+ T-cell count was 648 (IQR 531-843), 525 (IQR 348-698), and 220 (IQR 184-347) cells/µL. CD4+ T-cell counts were < 200 cells/µL in 0/23 (0%), 3/36 (8%), and 9/27 (33%) participants across the three groups. Total lymphocyte and CD4+ T-cell counts were inversely correlated with the number of platelet donations in the prior 365 days, R² = 0.384 (Fig 2) and 0.402 (Fig 3) respectively.

Disclosures. Erkan Hassan, Pharm.D., FCCM, Immunexpress (Consultant) Roy Davis, M.D., Immunexpress (Consultant)ImmuneFry (Consultant) Immunexpress (Consultant), Shareholder) Dayle Sampson, Ph.D., Immunexpress (Employee, Shareholder)