The Role of Immune-related NLR Pyrin Domain Containing 2 (NLRP2) Gene in the Development and Diseases

Fatemah Basingab¹,²*, Asmaa Alghamdi¹, Safiah Alhazmi¹, Aisha Alrofaidi¹ and Mona Alharbi¹

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Sciences, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, KSA. ²Immunology Unit, King Fahad for Medical Research, King Abdul-Aziz University, Jeddah, KSA.

Authors’ contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Authors FB and AA designed the study, collect the literature, draw figures, tables and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors SA, AA and MA managed the analyses of the study and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/JPRI/2021/v33i1831312

Editor(s):
(1) Dr. Q. Ping Dou, Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University, USA.

Reviewers:
(1) Emmanuel Ifeanyi Obeagu, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Nigeria.
(2) Ifeanyi Onyema Oshim, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria.

Complete Peer review History: http://www.sdiarticle4.com/review-history/66346

Received 15 January 2021
Accepted 21 March 2021
Published 29 March 2021

ABSTRACT

The Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain, Leucine-rich Repeat, and Pyrin domain-containing (NLRP) family, including NLR Family Pyrin Domain-Containing 2 (NLRP2) gene, is defined as a critical element in regulating both apoptosis and inflammation. Although the NLRP2 protein involves in stimulating the production of inflammatory cytokines and chemokines in response to pathogens, the expression of NLRP2 gene has been reported in many diseases. Some studies indicated that NLRP2 as a Nuclear Factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells (NF-κB)-positive regulator resulted in the production of NF-κB-driven cytokines. Whereas other studies reported NLRP2 as an NF-κB-negative regulator that limits IkB kinase, an enzyme involved in elucidating the cellular response to inflammation. This literature review has directly evaluated the relation of both the NLRP2 gene and NLRP2 protein in the development and different diseases based on journal articles obtained from databases such as PubMed, Science direct and Medline. Scientific names and symbols of the gene were utilized as keywords for published data from 2003 until 2020. We

*Corresponding author: E-mail: fbaseqab@kau.edu.sa;
propose that the overexpression of the *NLRP2* gene might result in an inflammatory microenvironment associated with localized or systematic diseases based on; the cells that express this particular gene and the location of the immune responses and the triggered signal transduction pathway.

**Keywords:** Immune response; Immune-related NLR pyrin domain containing 2 (*NLRP2*), nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells (*NF-κB*).

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Immune system recognizes and responds to pathogens through innate and adaptive immune responses. In innate immunity, immune cells express pattern-recognition receptors (PRRs) that interact with the pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) expressed by pathogens. Many innate immune cells such as; neutrophils, monocytes, and macrophages express the PRRs, which directly allow the capture of pathogens at the infection site [1]. Among these PRRs, the Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain (NOD)-like receptors (NLRs) family is expressed in the cytoplasm and enables immune cells to detect intracellular pathogens damaged cells. Various studies have reported that NLRs have different and vital roles in several aspects of inflammatory responses and immunity. The function of NLRs can be categorized into four groups, as summarized in Fig. 1. [2].

The interaction between autophagy and NLRs is decisive for homeostasis. Besides, the association between proteins that form autophagic instruments and mutations of NLRs highlights the importance of these proteins in regulating inflammation [3]. The activation of NLRs family proteins during a bacterial invasion in mammalian cells induces inflammatory responses resulted in pathogens removal. Several signal transduction pathways are operated by NLRs proteins such as, MAPK pathway, canonical and alternative NF-κB, and inflammasome pathway [4]. The inflammasomes are natural multi-proteins that join together for the activation of inflammatory responses. For example, the secretion of interleukin-1β (IL-1β), a pro-inflammatory cytokine produced as a consequence of phagocytic activation, induces different hematologic, metabolic, and immunologic

---

**Fig. 1.** Schematic diagram of the function of NLRs family divided into four categories
effects. The production of IL-1β is regulated by these inflammasomes. Other complexes of inflammasome have been identified in which most are specialized in recognizing the pathogens and inducing immune responses [5]. The NLRs family consists of four subfamilies: NLRA, NLRB, NLRC, and NLRP, according to the N-terminal domain, as shown in Fig. 2. [6].

The Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain, Leucine-rich Repeat, and Pyrin domain-containing (NLRP) is a group of cytosolic proteins contains 14 members with the same structure. NLRP is placed in two groups in the human chromosome 11p15 (NLRP6, 10, and 14) and chromosome 19q 13.4 (NLRP2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13), which expressed in various tissues. NLRPs activate caspases, thus, contribute to both apoptosis and inflammation. NLRPs has also known as NACHT-LRR- and pyrin domain-containing proteins (NALPs), pyrin- and NACHT domain-containing proteins (PANs) or pyrin domain-containing Apaf1-like proteins (PYPAFs) [7]. Besides, most NLRP family members consist of; an adapter protein, an Apoptosis-associated Speck-like protein-containing Caspase recruitment domain (ASC), enzyme procaspases 1, and procaspases 5. Moreover, the most NLRP genes studied and reported are the NLRP1, NLRP3, NLRP5, NLRP7, and NLRP12, along with their functional proteins. However, fewer studies have focused on the functions and cellular distribution of the NLRP2 gene and proteins. Therefore, this study aims to review all the literature of NLRP2 since its discovery and its relation to both development and diseases. To our knowledge, there are no review articles published focused on this particular NLRP2 gene.

| NLR Family | Human symbol | Structure |
|------------|--------------|-----------|
| NLRA       | CIITA        | AD       NOD |
| NLRB       | NAIPs        | BIR BIR BIR NOD |
| NLRC4      | CARD         | NOD      |
| NOD1       | CARD         | NOD      |
| NOD2       | CARD CARD    | NOD      |
| NLRC3/C5/X1| X            | NOD      |
| NLRP1      | PYD          | NOD      | FIND CARD |
| NLRP2-9,11-14| PYD | NOD  |
| NLRP10     | PYD          | NOD      |
2. STUDY DESIGN

Information including; title, abstract, references, and full text of the scientific articles were obtained from virtual databases including PubMed, Science direct, and Medline. The selection was based on keywords for published data from 2003 until 2020. Keywords used are either scientific names of the gene or scientific symbols. The gene’s scientific terms are; PYRIN-containing APAF1-like, Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain leucine-rich repeat, and pyrin domain-containing 2, and NACHT-LRR-PYD containing protein, whereas scientific symbols for this gene are NLRP2, CLR19.9, NALP2, NBS1, PAN1, PYPAF2.

3. NLR FAMILY PYRIN DOMAIN CONTAINING 2 (NLRP2)

3.1 Structure of the NLR Family Pyrin Domain-Containing 2 (NLRP2)

NLRP2 gene is also known as PYRIN-containing APAF1-like, Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain leucine-rich repeat and pyrin domain containing 2, and NACHT-LRR-PYD containing protein 2. The scientific synonym symbols for this gene are (CLR19.9, NALP2, NBS1, PAN1, PYPAF2). NLRP2 gene is located at human chromosome 19 on the long arm (19q13.42) (Fig. 3). It contains 14 exons that generate a 3540 bps transcript which codes for 1062 amino acids. NLRP2 is expressed in different human tissues, including the heart, placenta, thymus, and brain. In addition, many studies indicated that the NLRP2 protein structure consists of three parts. Starting from the N-terminal pyrin effector domain (PYD), a centrally-located nucleotide-binding and oligomerization domain (NACHT), and the C-terminal contains leucine-rich repeats (LRR) as shown in Fig. 4 [8]. The PYD protein involved in signal transduction results in the activation of pro-inflammatory pathways as a consequence of pathogen invasion. NALP proteins, including NALP2, contribute to the activation of the caspase-1 post the ligation of Toll-like receptors (TLRs). Besides, the NLRP2 gene encodes proteins able to bind with the IkB kinase (IKK) complex and also regulate the nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells (NF-κB). It has also been shown that the production of NLRP2 protein is regulated by lipopolysaccharide (LPS) or interferons (IFN beta and IFN gamma) in the THP-1 macrophage cells [9].

3.2 Timeline of the NLRP2

NLRP2 was first isolated during a study of the immune system in zebrafish. It is believed that the NLRP2 gene has derived from a mutation in the NLR family gene, such as NLRP7. Previous studies have reported NLRP2 protein functions as a regulator of the immune response in the NF-κB-dependent manner [9]. According to Fontalba, the expression of NLRP2 resulted in the suppression of the NF-κB signaling pathway without reporting much analysis in this pathway [11]. The role of the expression of NLRP group expression in preimplantation in various phases of embryos has been explored by comparing expression stages between abnormal and normal embryos via real-time PCR technique in a human embryo. Results show a decrease in the expression of NLRP2 from oocytes by day three and increased again by day five [7]. Studies have also indicated the association of NLRP2 with different diseases. For example, a frameshift mutation in NLRP2 was detected in Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS), excessive fetal growth, and familial imprinting disorder [12]. While some studies indicated that the NLRP2 has a role in the development of mice at embryonic stages [13], others found that NLRP2 acts as a critical element in the development of diseases as arsenic-induced skin lesions in human [14]. In 2013, the first detection of NLRP2 inflammasome in human Astrocytes was reported leading to the conversion of procaspase-1 to its active form resulted in IL-18 and IL-1β pro-inflammatory cytokines production [8]. Although there are many studies on the NLRPs family, NLRP1, NLRP3 and NLRP6, fewer studies were conducted on NLRP2 in which the focus was on its functions at embryonic development and reproduction [15]. Furthermore, several studies have reported NLRP2 in immune pathways and inflammation. For example, in human trophoblasts, NLRP2 was involved in blocking anti-fetal responses by suppressing NF-κB and major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I and II [16]. In addition, NLRP2 protein could act as a negative activation of kinase 1 (TBK1) in response to viral infection [17]. This role of NLRP2 protein as a regulator of pro-inflammatory signaling was observed in the lung [18]. Another study showed that kynurenine (Kyn), an immune dysfunction biomarker in depression, increased by the NLRP2 inflammasome upregulation in an NF-κB-dependent manner [19]. Recently investigators have examined the NLRP2 as a risk factor out of the six genes affecting tumor prognosis in
patients with neck and head carcinoma and found a positive correlation between the gene and this type of cancer [20]. Fig. 5. presents a timeline of the NLRP2 gene. Based on this, NLRP2 is a potential candidate for further studies in human developments and diseases.

### 3.3 Functions of the NLRP2

Based on the literature here, we grouped the functions of NLRP2 into three significant sections. First, NLRP2 contribution to signal transduction. Then, the role of NLRP2 in the development and last NLRP2 in different diseases. However, it is important to mention that some of the NLRP2 functions are still controversial.

#### 3.3.1 NLRP2 in signal transduction

Various studies have looked at the signal pathways of NLRP2. Table 1. summarized all studies of NLRP2 at gene or protein levels in signal pathways.

**3.3.1.1 Positive regulation of NF-κB transcriptional activity**

NF-κB is a crucial transcription factor in regulating inflammation and controlling the expression levels of several genes involved in the immune and stress responses, cell survival, and cell adhesion. The transcription factor NF-κB is regulated by the inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa B (IκBα), a complex consists of IKKα, IKKβ, and IKKγ subunits. The role of kinase complex is to phosphorylate IκBα, which then degrade leading to the activation of NF-κB. A study has been conducted in Cystinosis patients, which is a disorder characterized by the accumulation of the amino acid cystine within cells that resulted in many organs and tissues damages, has found a high expression of NLRP2 in these patients in the (PTEC) in the kidney [21]. Moreover, exogenous expression of NLRP2 protein in a healthy control PTEC resulted in an increase in the production of IL-6 and IL-8 in an NF-κB-dependent manner. Furthermore, DNA-binding activities through p65 and p50 are also regulated by NF-κB proteins by the upregulation of NLRP2. However, the evidence for this positive regulation in the NLRP2 gene needs to be more studied.

**3.3.1.2 Negative regulation of NF-κB transcriptional activity**

In 2004, a first study indicated that NLRP2 regulates NF-κB activity by binding to the IKK complex components [9]. The properties of NLRP2 in regulating NF-κB are identical

---

![Cytogenetic Location of NLRP2 in human: 19q13.42](image1)

**Fig. 3.** Cytogenetic Location of NLRP2 in human: 19q13.42, which is the long (q) arm of chromosome 19 at position 13, Band 4, sub-band 2, with molecular Size: 48,013 bases (NCBI, 10)

![NLRP2 domain structure](image2)

**Fig. 4.** NLRP2 domain structure, showing the location of the N-terminal pyrin effector domain (PYD), centrally-located nucleotide-binding and oligomerization domain (NACHT,) and C-terminal leucine-rich repeats (LRR)
A simplified timeline of some key events and discoveries in the NLRP2 gene and its protein

3.3.1.3 NLRP2 inflammasome in Astrocyte

The inflammasome complex in the central nervous system (CNS) involves in inducing an innate immune inflammatory response due to IL-1β cytokine release and apoptosis. However, the NLRP2 inflammasome has shown to be expressed in human neural Astrocytes and is activated by extracellular adenosine 5′-triphosphate (ATP). The structure of the NLRP2 inflammasome differs in Astrocytes but mainly consists of three parts; NLRP2, adaptor protein (ASC), and caspase 1, as shown in Fig. 6. Additionally, the activation of astrocytes with ATP resulted in the activation of NLRP2, which is essential to processing the caspase-1 and IL-1β. Results suggest that the NLRP2 inflammasome might be a crucial part of the CNS inflammatory response and could be used as a curative target to impede inflammation due to CNS injury [8]. Moreover, NLRP2 inflammasome in neural Astrocytes has shown to be involved in depression. Also, the effect of Kynurenine (Kyn) on NLRP2 inflammasome in astrocytes and its
implication in the pathophysiology of depression has been studied in mice models [19].

3.3.2 The role of NLRP2 in the Development of Embryonic

The maternal genes encode proteins that formed during oogenesis, which have roles in early embryogenesis. The NLRP2 protein is expressed in different types of cells such as oocytes and granulosa cells. Moreover, a study investigates that NLRP2 acts as a maternal effect gene desired for the development of early embryonic in the mouse. The reduction of NLRP2 protein in zygotes leads to an early embryonic arrest. While on the other hand, the high expression of NLRP2 in zygotes leads to normal development but raises apoptosis rate in blastocysts [13]. This function of this gene is still not understood, and the exact effects on the embryo need further studies. Furthermore, previous studies have reported the expression role of NLRP2 in preimplantation in different stages of embryos in humans [7]. However, Kuchmiy et al. explored a role for oocytes that expressed NLRP2 protein in early embryogenesis, and their findings exhibited that NLRP2 could contribute to in vivo fertility with advanced maternal age. Therefore, the NLRP2 could act as a regulator marker of oocyte features in mice [15].

3.3.3 The involvement of NLRP2 in different diseases

NLRP2 gene has been detected in different diseases, as summarized in Table 2. The inflammasome dysregulation drives pathology in a wide variation of human diseases (e.g., diabetes, various cancers, and neurodegenerative tive diseases). Numerous studies tried to recognize the mechanisms by which these inflammasomes drive human diseases and evolve new inflammasome inhibitors [2]. There has been an increasing interest in some inflammasomes defined in human diseases, including NLRP1, NLRP3, NLRP7, and AIM2. One of the inflammasomes mentioned earlier is the NLRP3 inflammasome, concerned with a range of human diseases, including Type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, and several infectious diseases [22]. Moreover, the initial statement of NLRP2 alteration in human disease emerged in 2009. Meyer et al. establish an extensive homozygous region within chromosome 19q13.4 (including NLRP7 and NLRP2 genes) in a mother with two children affected by Beckwith Wiedemann syndrome (BWS) [12]. Additionally, Results show that 20 gene transcripts have been implicated in immune-inflammatory response in individuals with Axial spondyloarthropathy (SpA) disease. They found high regulation in IL-1 receptors and a reduced level in the NLRP2 [23]. Recently, the importance of inflammasomes has been shown by the high existence of inflammasomes in the post-mortem brain specimens in different neural disorders such as bipolar disorder, Alzheimer’s and stroke [24]. Moreover, a previous study has reported that the various significant expressed genes were the NLRP2 inflammasome in bipolar patients using RNA sequencing in both pluripotent stem cells and neural stem cells [25]. In 2016, Xia Sun et al. investigate the expression of NLRP2 protein in the CNS in both ischemic strokes and under normal conditions in mice. The result showed that NLRP2 protein had an expression in CNS, mostly in Astrocytes, and higher in the ischemic brains in vivo [26]. However, whether NLRP2 was related to such neurological diseases and whether it is shown in CNS in vivo still needs to be explored. Furthermore, Out of 47 variant genes that were detected in 15 autism spectrum disorder (ASD) patients, 2 of these genes are related to immune responses; Mannosyl-Oligosaccharide Glucosidase (MOGS) and NLR family pyrin domain containing 2 (NLRP2). NLRP2 has been detected as an autosomal recessive (AR) in one male ASD patient [27]. Therefore, the presence, absence, or even a variation in the expression of such immune-related genes may shed light on the immune system’s role in ASD. Recent evidence suggests the role of NLRP2 as a regulator of pro-inflammatory signaling in lung inflammation due to an increase in the IL-8 cytokines after silencing NLRP2 in the bronchial epithelial cells in humans [18].

![Fig. 6. Structure of the NLRP2 inflammasomes in human astrocytes](image-url)
Table 1. List of studies that indicate NLRP2 in biological pathways

| References            | Biological pathways                      | Type of study                                                                 | Research Contribution                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Bruey et al. 2004)   | Activation of NF-κB and Caspase-1         | The function of NLRP2 protein in regulating NF-κB and pro-caspase-1 in macrophage cells. | The expression of NLRP2 protein is inducible through the lipopolysaccharide and other cytokines. NLRP2 protein plays a role in inflammation. NLRP2 binds to the IKK complex and controls NF-κB activity. NLRP2 can inhibit HLA-C expression and also the NF-κB pathway. |
| (Fontalba et al. 2007)| Suppress the activation of NF-κB         | The expression of NLRP2 by NF-κB and how it contributes to inflammation due to the decrease of the NF-κB restrained signals. | NLRP2 was upregulated following the differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells to adipocytes. Overexpress of the p65 subunit of the NF-κB resulting in upregulation of the NLRP2. Decrease the induction of HBD-3 due to knockdown of NLRP2 by RNA interference. |
| (Ji et al. 2009)      | inducement of Human Beta-Defensins (HBD).| Characterize the NLRP2 as an intercede in the induction of both human beta-defensin 2 and 3 by Fusobacterium nucleatum bacterium in gingival epithelial cells [30]. | Activation of NLRP2 resulted in converting procaspase-1 to its active form and maturation interleukins of IL-18 and IL-1β. NLRP2 can inhibit HLA-C expression and also the NF-κB pathway. NLRP2 helps to balance the anti and pro-inflammatory reactions in fetal extravillous trophoblasts. |
| (Minkiewicz et al. 2013)| Regulatory in human astrocytes.         | Investigate NLRP2 inflammasome express in the human neural Astrocytes.         | The female mice that lose NLRP2 protein are crucially compromised fertility.                                                                                                                                               |
| (Tilburgs et al. 2017)| NF-κB and Caspase-1 activation.          | The role for NLRP2 in inflammation through the regulation of major histocompatibility complex expression |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| (Mahadevan et al. 2017)| Development of early embryonic.          | Investigate the link between expressed NLRP2 protein at fertility in a mouse lacking NLRP2 protein and the consequence on their offspring [32]. | The female mice that lose NLRP2 protein are crucially compromised fertility.                                                                                                                                               |
| (Peng et al. 2017)    | Arrest an at an early embryonic stage.    | Explore FAF1 expression of a protein in mice tissues detect evidence of an interplay between FAF1and NLRP2 proteins within early embryos and oocytes [35]. | NLRP2 protein reacts to FAF1 protein under usual conditions, resulting in developing the mouse embryos' division stage. A Possible role for NLRP2 in modulating the development of an early embryo. |
| References         | Biological pathways                              | Type of study                                                                 | Research Contribution                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Li et al. 2018)   | Inflammation and mechanism of oxidative stress.  | Accelerates the hepatic steatosis is due to the inhibition of the NLRP2 expression in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in mice [31]. | NLRP2 was a noticeable reduction in the liver tissues of mice. The potential role of NLRP2 protein as a curative strategy to prevent NAFLD development. Oxidative stress was promoted by NLRP2 loss. |
| (Yang et al. 2018) | Regulation the antiviral immunity.               | NLRP2 protein interaction with TANK-binding kinase 1 (TBK1) in viral infection preserve the immune homeostasis | NLRP2 protein serves as a negative activation of TBK1.                                                                                                                                                        |
| (Cheon et al. 2018)| Apoptosis signal-activating kinase.              | Estimate the function of (ASK1) in controlling the NLRP2 inflammasome in murine neural Astrocytes post cerebral ischemia [28]. | The level of NLRP2 inflammasome has been increased in the cortex of the mouse model after the ischemic injury. Suppressing of (ASK1) resulting in a decrease in the NLRP2 inflammasome in mice and Astrocyte cell lines. NLRP2 is overexpressed in cystinosis PTEC. NLRP2 protein has a positive regulation of NF-kB through the production of several cytokines . The highly expressed NLRP2 protein result in reducing apoptotic cell rate. Silencing the NLRP2 suppressed the (MAPK) pathway. |
| (Rossi et al. 2019)| Pro-inflammatory.                               | Identified the role of NLRP2 in controlling the antiapoptotic reaction and pro-inflammatory in proximal tubular epithelial cells in the kidney. |                                                                                                                                                     |
| (Zhang et al. 2019)| The MAPK signaling pathway.                     | The NLRP2 has a significant role in preserve cell viability and motility in human umbilical vein endothelial cells by contributing to the MAPK pathway. |                                                                                                                                                     |
Table 2. List of studies that indicate NLRP2 related to different diseases

| References            | Diseases                          | Type of study                                                                 | Research Contribution                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Zhang et al. 2008)   | Preimplantation Development in human | The expression role of NLRP family in preimplantation in different stages of embryos. | Decrease the expression of NLRP2 from oocytes on day 3, and rise once more in day 5. A frameshift mutation in NLRP2. Role of NLRP2 in the establishment of genomic imprinting in humans. |
| (Meyer et al. 2009)   | Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS)  | Identified mutation in NLRP2 gene that extracted from lymphocytes in the mother of two children with BWS. | Downregulation of NLRP2 gene out of 20 genes involved in immunity.                                                                                           |
| (Sharma et al. 2009)  | Axial spondyloarthropathy (SpA)    | The gene expression of NLRP2 as pathogenesis biomarker in peripheral blood of patients with SpA | The reduction of NLRP2 in the zygote resulted in the early fetal arrest, while the overexpression of NLRP2 led to normal development.                       |
| (Peng et al. 2012)    | Early Embryogenesis                | The role of NLRP2 gene in early embryonic development in oocytes of the mouse.  |                                                                                                                                                            |
| (Huang et al. 2013)   | Idiopathic repeated miscarriage    | Association of gene polymorphisms in NLRP2 led to idiopathic recurrent miscarriage [29]. | Single tag SNP of NLRP2 displays slight importance among patients and controls. Three SNPs of NLRP2 were examined in 624 RA patients and 1920 normal individuals. |
| (Yang et al. 2015)    | Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)          | The relationship of polymorphisms in NLRP2 with the susceptibility of rheumatoid arthritis in a Chinese Han people [36]. | Significantly high in ischemic brains . Disability of the NLRP2 gene reduces the apoptotic rate.                                                                 |
| (Sun et al. 2016)     | Ischemic stroke                    | Examine the expression of NLRP2 in the focal cerebra of the nervous system in both ischemic stroke model and typical cases. |                                                                                                                                                            |
| (Kuchmiy et al. 2016) | Age-associated maternal fertility.  | The function of NLRP2 in the stimulation of oocytes and reproductive average in vivo through advanced age of NLRP2-lacking mice. | Recognize the NLRP2 as a regulator of oocyte excellence . Suggested reduced activity of NLRP2 protein might contribute to maternal age-associated fertility lack in humans. |
| (Al-Mubarak et al. 2017) | Autism Spectrum Disorder          | Whole-exome sequencing on 19 trios from Saudi families with autism.            | Out of 47 different genes that could play a vital role in the development of autism, the NLRP2 gene was detected.                                                                                          |
| (Vizlin-Hodzic et al. 2017) | Bipolar Disorder (BD)              | Suggest the defect in regulating gene expression of inflammatory NLRP2 takes place through embryo brain development of BD patients. | Variation in NLRP2 expression at both iPSC and NSC stages in BD patients mentions that inflammation already starts at early embryonic development.          |
| References          | Diseases                        | Type of study                                                                 | Research Contribution                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Matsuoka et al. 2019) | Inflammatory pain hypersensitivity | The role of NLRP2 inflammasome as a novel technique of the development of inflammatory pain in male rats [33]. | The absence expression of NLRP2 in adipocytes of BD patients suggests that the expression of NLRP2 is varied between cell types. Presence of NLRP2 inflammasome in dorsal root ganglion neurons that become increased via tissue inflammation. Expression of NLRP2 was crucially increased in kidney injury model. Reduced apoptosis of cells through silencing NLRP2. It could be an essential marker for therapy severe kidney injury. |
| (Yu et al. 2019)    | Kidney ischemia                 | Investigate and examine the role of NLRP2 in the kidney injury in mice model [37]. | NLRP2 is strongly exists in cell lines extracted from the lung mucosa . Increase IL-8 after silencing NLRP2 in bronchial epithelial cells. |
| (Perryman et al. 2019) | Lung Inflammation              | Identified the role of NLRP2 as a regulator of proinflammatory signaling in the lung. | There were mutations in NLRP2 gene in five distinct individuals that cause a reduction in the protein expression in embryos and oocytes. |
| (Mu et al. 2019)    | Female infertility              | Effects of mutations in NLRP2 in oocytes and embryos that cause female infertility [34]. | Kynurenine stimulates the NF-κB signaling activity. Increase NLRP2 transcription in the astrocytes. |
| (Zhang et al. 2020) | Depression                      | The impact of Kynurenine (Kyn) on NLRP2 inflammasome in neural cells and its inclusion in the pathophysiology of depression in mice model [38]. | NLRP2 gene was reported as a risk factor out of six genes in this study. |
| (Wang et al. 2020)  | Head and neck carcinoma         | Identified possibility applicant genes affecting tumor prognosis in patients with neck and head carcinoma by employing bioinformatics technology. | |
4. CONCLUSION AND FURTHER DIRECTIONS

Many studies examined the role of the NLRP family in several diseases. Few only focused on the NLRP2 gene and define its primary functions. While various studies measured the NLRP2 gene in human development and different diseases, the involvement of the NLRP2 gene still controversial. Some studies indicated that the NLRP2 gene is one of the genetic factors involved in various diseases and affects embryonic stages, which leads to miscarriage. Others have related NLRP2 to auto-inflammatory diseases. Although studies of the NLRP2 gene and its protein are reported in this literature, further investigation is required to investigate which pathways NLRP2 gene is activated and further exploiting NLRP2 in other diseases.

5. LIMITATION OF THIS STUDY

Despite that literature reviews are effective methods to evaluate NLRP2 in human development and diseases, some limitations can result in uncertainty. Although all the selected articles are published in the databases, no unpublished data were used nor non-indexed papers. In addition, negative results are less likely to be obtained from electronic databases, leading to drawbacks. Some studies were lacking details on the molecular pathways. Considering these limitations, different molecular pathways of NLRP2 can offer sufficient information on the signal transduction of the gene and how to manipulate pathways to avoid diseases or mitigate symptoms of NLRP-2-related diseases.

CONSENT

It is not applicable.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

It is not applicable.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

REFERENCES

1. Janeway Jr CA. 1992. The immune system evolved to discriminate infectious nonself from noninfectious self. Immunology Today, 1992;13:11-16.

2. Martinson F, Burns K, Tschopp J. The inflammasome: a molecular platform triggering activation of inflammatory caspses and processing of proIL-β. Molecular Cell. 2002;10:417-426.

3. Carneiro LA, Travassos LHD. The interplay between NLRs and autophagy in immunity and inflammation. Frontiers in Immunology. 2013;4:361.

4. Kufer TA. Signal transduction pathways used by NLR-type innate immune receptors. Molecular BioSystems. 2008; 4:380-386.

5. Dinarello CA. IL-1: Discoveries, controversies and future directions. European Journal of Immunology. 2010; 40:599-606.

6. Kim YK, Shin JS, Nahm MH. NOD-like receptors in infection, immunity, and diseases. Yonsei Medical Journal. 2016; 57:5-14.

7. Zhang P, Dixon M, Zucchelli M, Hambiliki F, Levkov L, Hovatta O, et al. Expression analysis of the NLRP gene family suggests a role in human preimplantation development. PLoS One. 2008;3: e2755.

8. Minkiewicz J, De Rivero Vaccari JP, Keane RW. Human astrocytes express a novel NLRP2 inflammasome. Glia. 2013;61: 1113-1121.

9. Bruey JM, Bruey-Sedano N, Newman R, Chandler S, Stehlik C, Reed JC, PAN1/NALP2/PYPAF2, an inducible inflammatory mediator that regulates NF-kappaB and caspase-1 activation in macrophages. J Biol Chem. 2004;279: 51897-907.

10. NCBI. NLRP2 NLR family pyrin domain containing 2; 2020. Available:https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/55655#gene-expression [Accessed].

11. Fontalba A, Gutierrez O, Fernandez-Luna JL. NLRP2, an inhibitor of the NF-kB pathway, is transcriptionally activated by NF-kB and exhibits a nonfunctional allelic variant. The Journal of Immunology. 2007; 179:8519-8524.

12. Meyer E, Lim D, Pasha S, Tee LJ, Rahman F, Yates JR, et al. 2009. Germline mutation in NLRP2 (NALP2) in a familial imprinting disorder (Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome). PLoS Genet. 2008;5: e1000423.

13. Peng H, Chang B, Lu C, Su J, Wu Y, Lv P, et al. Nlrp2, a maternal effect gene required for early embryonic development
14. Bhatthacharjee P, Das N, Chatterjee D, Banerjee A, Das JK, Basu S, et al. 2013. Association of NALP2 polymorphism with arsenic induced skin lesions and other health effects. Mutation Research/Genetic Toxicology and Environmental Mutagenesis. 2013;755:1-5.

15. Kuchmiy AA, D'hont J, Hocheplied T, Lamkanfi M. 2016. NLRP2 controls age-associated maternal fertility. Journal of Experimental Medicine. 2016;213:2851-2860.

16. Tilburgs T, Meissenner TB, Ferreira LM, Mulder A, Musunuru K, Ye J, et al. 2017. NLRP2 is a suppressor of NF-kB signaling and HLA-C expression in human trophoblasts. Biology of Reproduction. 2017;96:831-842.

17. Yang Y, Lang X, Sun S, Gao C, Hu J, Ding S, et al. 2018. NLRP2 negatively regulates antiviral immunity by interacting with TBK1. European Journal of Immunology. 2018;48:1817-1825.

18. Perryman A, Rivera-Martin W, Speen A, Jaspers I. High Expression of NLRP2 in Bronchial Epithelial Cells May Implicate Unique Role in Lung Inflammation. B32. Asthma: Mechanisms of Disease I. American Thoracic Society; 2019.

19. Zhang Q, Sun Y, He Z, Xu Y, Li X, Ding J, et al. Kynurenine regulates NLRP2 inflammasome in astrocytes and its implications in depression. Brain, Behavior, and Immunity; 2020.

20. Wang J, Chen X, Tian Y, Zhu G, Qin Y, Chen X, et al. Six-gene signature for predicting survival in patients with head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Aging (Albany NY). 2020;12:767-783.

21. Rossi MN, Pascarella A, Licursi V, Caiello I, Taranta A, Rega LR, et al. NLRP2 Regulates Proinflammatory and Antiapoptotic Responses in Proximal Tubular Epithelial Cells. Front Cell Dev Biol. 2019;7:252.

22. Yang Y, Wang H, Kouadir M, Song H, Shi F. Recent advances in the mechanisms of NLRP3 inflammasome activation and its inhibitors. Cell Death & Disease. 2019;10:1-11.

23. Sharma SM, Choi D, Planck SR, Harrington CA, Austin CR, Lewis JA, et al. Insights in to the pathogenesis of axial spondyloarthropathy based on gene expression profiles. Arthritis Research & Therapy. 2009;11:R168.

24. Kim HK, Andreazza AC, Elmi N, Chen W, Young LT. Nod-like receptor pyrin containing 3 (NLRP3) in the post-mortem frontal cortex from patients with bipolar disorder: a potential mediator between mitochondria and immune-activation. Journal of Psychiatric Research. 2016;72:43-50.

25. Vizin Hodzic D, Zhai Q, Illes S, Sodersten K, Truve K, Parris T, et al. Early onset of inflammation during ontogeny of bipolar disorder: the NLRP2 inflammasome gene distinctly differentiates between patients and healthy controls in the transition between iPS cell and neural stem cell stages. Translational Psychiatry. 2017;7:e1010-e1010.

26. Sun X, Song X, Zhang L, Sun J, Wei X, Meng L, et al. NLRP2 is highly expressed in a mouse model of ischemic stroke. Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications. 2016;479:656-662.

27. Al-Mubarak B, Abouelhoda M, Omar A, Aldhalaan H, Aldosari M, Nester M, et al. 2017. Whole exome sequencing reveals inherited and de novo variants in autism spectrum disorder: a trio study from Saudi families. Scientific Reports. 2017;7:1-14.

28. Cheon SY, Kim EJ, Kim SY, Kim JM, Kam EH, Park JK et al. 2018. Apoptosis signal-regulating kinase 1 Silencing on Astrogial Inflammasomes in an Experimental Model of Ischemic Stroke. Neuroscience. 2018;390:218-230.

29. Huang JY, Su M, Lin SH, Kuo PL. A genetic association study of NLRP2 and NLRP7 genes in idiopathic recurrent miscarriage. Human Reproduction. 2013;28:1127-1134.

30. Ji S, Shin JE, Kim YS, Oh JE, Min BM, Choi Y. Toll-like receptor 2 and NALP2 mediate induction of human beta-defensins by Fusobacterium nucleatum in gingival epithelial cells. Infection and Immunity. 200;77:1044-1052.

31. Li C, Liu Q, Xie L. Suppressing NLRP2 expression accelerates hepatic steatosis: A mechanism involving inflammation and oxidative stress. Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications. 2018;507:22-29.

32. Mahadevan S, Sathappan V, Utama B, Lorenzo I, Kaskar K, Van Den Veyver IB. Maternally expressed NLRP2 links the subcortical maternal complex (SCMC) to
fertility, embryogenesis and epigenetic reprogramming. Scientific Reports. 2017; 7:44667.

33. Matsuoka Y, Yamashita A, Matsuda M, Kawai K, Sawa T, et al. NLRP2 inflammasome in dorsal root ganglion as a novel molecular platform that produces inflammatory pain hypersensitivity. Pain. 2019;160:2149-2160.

34. Mu J, Wang W, Chen B, Wu L, Li B, Mao X, et al. Mutations in NLRP2 and NLRP5 cause female infertility characterised by early embryonic arrest. Journal of Medical Genetics. 2019;56:471-480.

35. Peng H, Liu H, Liu F, Gao Y, Chen J, Huo J, et al. NLRP2 and FAF1 deficiency blocks early embryogenesis in the mouse. Reproduction. 2017;154:245-251.

36. Yang X, Hu ZD, Wu Q, Liu X, Liu QJ, et al. Association of polymorphisms in SPARC and NLRP2 genes with rheumatoid arthritis in a Chinese Han population. Modern Rheumatology. 2015; 25:67-71.

37. Yu X, Zhang X, HU Z. NLRP2 is highly expressed and promotes apoptosis in a mouse model of kidney ischemia/reperfusion injury. European Journal of Inflammation. 2019;201(17): 2058739219859805.

38. Zhang X, Lu X, Yu L, Gu Y, Qu F. Downregulation of NLRP2 inhibits HUVEC viability by inhibiting the MAPK signaling pathway. Molecular Medicine Reports. 2019;19:85-92.