COAGULATION DEFECTS IN CHRONIC URTICARIA.
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BACKGROUND:
Patients with chronic urticaria (CU) show some alterations of the coagulation components. The role of these findings is still unknown, being the expression of a pro-inflammatory effect or representing a defect in the coagulation cascade. The thrombin generation test (TGT) is a global assay that measures the overall tendency of a plasma sample to form thrombin after the initiation of coagulation.

OBJECTIVE:
To perform TGT in plasma of patients actively suffering from CU and to find out if the results have a relation with the type or severity of urticaria, the presence of comorbidities or with other analytical parameters.

METHOD:
We performed an observational, descriptive study in 22 adult patients diagnosed with CU and 8 healthy controls. All patients were informed and accepted to participate. A broad spectrum of blood tests and the autologous serum skin test (ASST) helped to classify the urticaria as autoimmune, and rule out other conditions. The severity of the disease was evaluated by the questionnaire Urticaria Severity Score (USS). Plasma was collected to analyze TG.

RESULTS:
There were not any statistically significant differences between the severity index and the results of the TGT. However, we observed a tendency to a hypercoagulable pattern in patients with severe CU (10/22). Patients with a history of oedema (50%), showed a higher thrombin peak-height and an increased area under the curve. Patients with previous symptoms of oedema showed higher levels of thrombine than patients without oedema. The difference was more pronounced when compared with healthy controls. We couldn’t find any differences between TGT and other analytical or clinical parameters.

CONCLUSIONS:
Patients with a history of swelling showed increased levels of thrombin compared with patients without it. This finding shows an increase in the coagulation potential of patients with oedema, but the clinical relevance is still under evaluation.

In relation to this presentation, I declare that there are no conflicts of interest.