Association of Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms of C-Reactive Protein Gene with C-Reactive Protein Blood Levels and Outcomes in Treatment-Resistant Bipolar Depression Treated with Escitalopram and Celecoxib

Daniel T. Hain1; Rebecca A. Law1; David J. Lewis1; Lisa C. Brown1; Angelos Halaris2
1. Myriad Neuroscience, Mason, OH 2. Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

METHODS

● 43 patients (baseline HAMD-17 ≥ 18) were randomized to a treatment arm and received combination therapy or escitalopram and placebo for 8 weeks.

● Baseline and week 8 CRP blood levels were collected. Rating scales were administered at baseline and weeks 1, 2, 4, and 8.

● Response was defined as ≥ 50% reduction in HAMD-17 from baseline to week 8. Remission was defined as week 8 HAMD-17 score < 7.

BACKGROUND

● Inflammatory biomarkers are reportedly elevated in bipolar depression; anti-inflammatory combination therapy may enhance response to treatment and reverse treatment resistance.1,2

● This study investigated the impact of polymorphisms within the C-reactive protein (CRP) gene on CRP blood levels, Hamilton Depression Rating Scale, 17-item (HAMD-17) scores, and Perceived Stress Scale (PSS-14) score in treatment-resistant bipolar depressed (TRBDD) patients receiving celecoxib and escitalopram relative to those receiving escitalopram and placebo.

RESULTS

● CRP single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs), rs3093077 and rs3093059, were in complete linkage disequilibrium, with 5 carriers in each treatment arm.

● Figure 1 shows the baseline CRP blood levels in all subjects, those receiving celecoxib, and those receiving placebo split by CRP SNP carrier status.

● Among all patients, non-carriers had significantly lower baseline CRP blood levels (p<0.05).

● Analysis of variance revealed significant variation across subjects categorized by carrier-status and treatment arm for response (p=0.04), remission (p=0.0005), and PSS-14 scores (p=0.03).

● Non-carriers receiving celecoxib had the highest rates of response and remission, and the lowest PSS-14 scores.

● Figure 2 shows the week-8 CRP blood levels in all subjects, those receiving celecoxib, and those receiving placebo split by CRP SNP carrier status.

● Figure 3 shows the rates of HAM-D17 response and remission in subjects receiving celecoxib or placebo split by CRP SNP carrier status.

CONCLUSIONS

● Non-carriers of the CRP SNPs had significantly lower pre-treatment CRP levels, and those receiving celecoxib showed the greatest antidepressant response.

● Carriers did not see significantly improved antidepressant response with celecoxib co-administration, despite reductions in CRP levels, indicating that week-8 CRP levels are not predictive of week-8 antidepressant outcomes.

● Non-carriers of the CRP SNPs may benefit most from celecoxib combination therapy in TRBDD.


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