

15th International Conference on
**Clinical Gastroenterology
and Hepatology**
May 04-05, 2023 | Zurich, Switzerland



Day-1
Scientific Tracks & Abstracts



Sessions

Gastrointestinal Oncology | Hepatitis and Liver Diseases

Session Introduction

Title: Epithelial SOX9 drives progression and metastases of Gastric Adenocarcinoma by promoting immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment

Shumei Song | The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer | USA

Title: Prevalence and sociodemographic profile of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in people living with HIV (PIHIV): A multicenter, retrospective study

Isabelo IV Caratao | Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center | Philippines

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Epithelial SOX9 drives progression and metastases of gastric adenocarcinoma by promoting immunosuppressive tumour microenvironment

Shumei Song

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer, USA

Objective: Many cancers engage embryonic genes for rapid growth and evading the immune system. SOX9 has been upregulated in many tumors, yet the role of SOX9 in mediating immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment is unclear. Here, we aim to dissect the role of SOX9-mediated cancer stemness attributes and immunosuppressive microenvironment in advanced Gastric Adenocarcinoma (GAC) for novel therapeutic discoveries.

Methods: RNAseq/sc-RNA-seq, patient-derived cells/models and extensive functional studies were used to identify the expression and functions of SOX9 and its target genes in vitro and in vivo. Immune responses were studied in PBMCs or CD45+ immune cells co-cultured with tumor cells with SOX9^{high} or knockout and the KP-Luc2 syngeneic models were used for efficacy of combinations.

Results: SOX9 is one of the most upregulated SOX genes in GAC, and highly expressed in primary and metastatic tissues and associated with poor prognosis. Depletion of SOX9 in patient-derived GAC cells significantly decreased cancer stemness attributes, tumor formation, metastases, and consistently increased CD8 T cell responses when cocultured with PBMCs/CD45+ cells from GAC patients. RNA-sequencing identified the leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF) as the top secreted molecule regulated by SOX9 in tumor cells and was enriched in malignant ascites and mediated SOX9-induced M2 macrophage repolarization and inhibited T cell function.

Conclusion: Epithelial SOX9 is critical in suppressing CD8+ T cell responses and modified macrophage function in GAC through the paracrine LIF factor. Co-targeting LIF/LIFR and CSF1R has great potential in targeting SOX9-mediated cancer stemness, T cell immunosuppression, and metastases suggesting the novel combination therapy against advanced GAC.

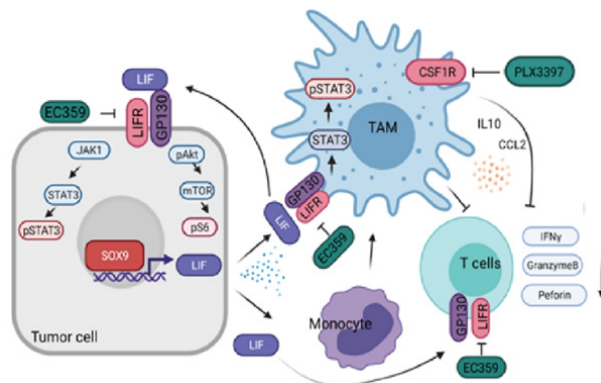


Figure 1: Gastric Adenocarcinoma by promoting immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment

Recent Publications

1. Ajani JA et al and Song S*. YAP1 mediates gastric adenocarcinoma peritoneal metastases that are attenuated by YAP1 inhibition. Gut. 2021 Jan;70(1):55-66.
2. Song S* et al Targeting cancer stem cells with a pan-BCL-2 inhibitor in preclinical and clinical settings in patients with gastroesophageal carcinoma Gut. 2021 Dec;70(12):2238-2248.
3. Wang R et al and Song S, Ajani JA, Wang L . Single cell lineage diversity of metastatic gastric adenocarcinoma contributes to the inherent intratumoral heterogeneity and a fundamental prognostic signature. Nat Med. 2021 Jan;27(1):141-151

Biography

Shumei Song is a full Professor in the Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology at the University of MD Anderson Cancer Center. Her research has been focus on gastrointestinal cancers especially on Upper GI malignancy including esophageal and GE Junction and gastric adenocarcinoma for more than 20 years. She has extensive experience in gastrointestinal cancer biology, gene transcription and expression regulation, and molecular approaches to investigations of cellular mechanisms of gastroesophageal cancer progression and metastasis. Her current major research focus is to understand how aberrant stem cell signaling including Hippo/YAP1, TGF- β and Notch signaling play a role in the pathogenesis of esophageal and gastric cancers and to understand how deregulation of these pathways drives tumor progression, therapy resistance and even metastasis through regulation of tumor immunosuppressive microenvironments.

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Prevalence and sociodemographic profile of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in people living with HIV (PLHIV): A multicenter, retrospective study

Isabelo B Caratao IV, Arlene Kuan

Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Philippines

Introduction: In the Asia Pacific region, the Philippines has been identified as the country with the fastest growing HIV epidemic. Among people living PLHIV, viral hepatitis advances rapidly and results in more severe health problems. With the increasing incidence of HIV in the country, it is crucial to raise awareness about the co-infection of viral hepatitis in PLHIV, as it poses a significant challenge due to its complexity.

Methodology: This is a retrospective study which included cases of PLHIV enrolled in two key HIV treatment hubs in Cebu Philippines from January 2012 to June 2022.

Results: A total of 284 cases of PLHIV from the two centers were reviewed. Most of the cases of Hepatitis infection among PLHIV were mostly males (94.7%), single (83.1%), from Cebu City (77.1%) and unemployed (51.1%). The age group with the most cases belonged to the 31–40-year-old bracket. Among PLHIV with HBV, majority were College graduates (9.2%); those with HCV (25.7%) and those with triple infection (3.5%) were mostly High School undergraduates. Among the cases with HBV, the most prevalent risk profile was that of the MSM profile (17.3%). As for the HCV (59.9%) and triple infection (7.4%) categories, subjects were mostly persons who inject drugs (PWID). Of the 284 cases reviewed, HCV co-infection was more prevalent (68.7%) than HBV co-infection (22.9%).

Conclusion: Co-infection of HIV/HCV was more prevalent than HIV/HBV in this study. Notable cases of triple infection (HIV/ HBV/HCV) were also observed. The data obtained can be used to pinpoint vulnerable populations and heavily affected areas to gain traction on a focused, assertive, and comprehensive information campaign. The psychosocial implications, economic burden and health consequences of these diseases individually and altogether, casts a heavy burden on the stricken, making this a public health concern worth revisiting.

Keywords: Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, HIV, co-infection, triple infection

References

1. Department of Health. A briefer on the Philippines HIV estimates 2020.
2. Department of Health Epidemiology Bureau. HIV/AIDS and ART registry of the Philippines: Summary of newly diagnosed cases. January 2022.
3. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. People coinfecting with HIV and Viral Hepatitis. 2020.

Biography

Isabelo B Caratao IV, is a Gastroenterology fellow training in the Philippines. He developed a keen interest in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology, which prompted him to pursue further training in Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) in Cebu City. As a fellow, he is gaining extensive experience in the diagnosis and management of a wide range of gastrointestinal diseases. He is passionate about improving the quality of healthcare in the Philippines, especially in the field of gastroenterology, and is committed to providing compassionate and patient-centered care to his patients.

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Day-2
Scientific Tracks & Abstracts



Sessions

Colorectal and Intestinal Disorders

Session Introduction

Title: **Leal endometriosis: A rare cause of small bowel obstruction in the virgin abdomen**

David Zula | Monash Health Network | Australia

Title: **Management of Gastro-Intestinal Tract Diseases by hepatic friendly drugs: Efficacy of livelihood score**

Chowdhury Md. Navim Kabir | Islami Bank Central Hospital | Bangladesh

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Leal endometriosis: A rare cause of small bowel obstruction in the virgin abdomen

David Zula

Monash Health Network, Australia

A 31-year-old female presented with a one-day history of severe colicky epigastric pain with associated bilious vomiting, on a background of multiple recent similar presentations, coeliac disease, infertility, hypothyroidism and a virgin abdomen. She has a soft but distended abdomen with epigastric tenderness without peritonism. Pathology revealed a normal white cell count, but elevated CRP (111mg/L). A computed tomography scan showed a small bowel obstruction with transition point in the terminal ileum and caecal wall thickening, suspicious for Crohn's Disease. Following gastroenterology review, the patient was initiated on intravenous hydrocortisone, and a subsequent magnetic resonance enterogram showed severe structuring. However, multidisciplinary review of the imaging suggested it was inconsistent with Crohn's disease, and queried malignancy. Thus, in preparation for a colonoscopy, bowel prep was given, however was not tolerated, and therefore the patient was booked for surgery. Intraoperatively, clinical endometriosis was found at the terminal ileum, with endometriosis deposits on the pelvic peritoneum and ileal mesentery, with no macroscopic evidence of inflammatory bowel disease. An ileocolic resection with primary anastomosis was performed. Histology confirmed florid endometriosis. Only 5% of endometriosis cases involve intestinal manifestations, while rarer still, is the phenomenon of ileal endometriosis and resultant obstruction. Retrospective review the patient discussed herein revealed her previous presentations coincided with her menstrual cycle. With obstructive symptoms typically being cyclical, and laboratory investigations and imaging studies non-specific, it represents a diagnostic dilemma, and this diagnosis warrants consideration in a female of childbearing age with a small bowel obstruction.

Recent publications

1. Zula, David & Houlton, Adelene & Nataraja, Ramesh & Pacilli, Maurizio. (2021). Preduodenal Portal Vein Associated With Intestinal Malrotation and Jejunal Atresia. *Cureus*. 13. 10.7759/cureus.16467.
2. Zula, David & Narasimhan, Vignesh & Arachchi, Asiri & Nguyen, Thang & Chouhan, Hanumant & Teoh, William & Tay, Yeng. (2021). Extra□peritoneal rectal perforation from self□administered enema. *ANZ Journal of Surgery*. 92. 10.1111/ans.17036.
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Biography

David Zula is a General Surgical Registrar at the Monash Health Network, in Melbourne Australia. He has a keen interest in the Colorectal Subspecialty and a passion for academic surgery. As a comity member for the Monash Surgical Research Group, he helps coordinate various projects within Monash Health, working closely with the CSSANZ-accredited Colorectal Department at Monash Health.

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Management of Gastro-Intestinal Tract Diseases by hepatic friendly drugs: Efficacy of livelihood score

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Objectives: Comparison efficacy and safety level of different Proton pump inhibitors and H2 receptor blockers by livelihood score category.

Materials and Methods: 52 participants (30 male and 22 female) participated in this cross sectional study. They were instructed about the study. They were asked about their drug history especially pattern of drug, starting time, and change history (if applicable). Dosage schedule, and relevant adverse effects were also asked.

Results: Out of 52 participants, 27 patients (52%) regularly took proton pump inhibitors for avoiding gastro intestinal irritations more than 7-8 months. Here 10 patients having heart burn and rest of taking different medication for systemic improvement. 10 out of 27 patients were male and 17 were female. Dependency upon proton pump inhibitors was more in female due to spicy food intake and lack of punctuality of meal time. Important clue that 17 patients switch to Lansoprazole/Rabeprazole from omeprazole/esomeprazole. Primary reason was insufficient duration of anti-heart burn activity which decreased after starting lansoprazole/deslansoprazole/rabeprazole. Livelihood score of Rabeprazole D and for Lansoprazole/Daslansoprazole it is C. That means rare involvement of hepatic injury like enzyme elevation. The rest of 20 patients who had history of occasional proton pump inhibitor use. Remaining 5 participants didn't give mentionable information about their drug history. After switching 10 patients found fatty liver grade 1 which previously diagnosed as grade 2.

Conclusion: Carbohydrate and protein dominancy in daily food menu is prime reason for GIT irritation. In advance stage fate may be ulceration as well as non- alcoholic fatty liver disease. Avoiding unnecessary Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and selection of proton pump inhibitors according to livelihood score decrease patient's gastric irritation as well as establishing healthy drug usage.

Recent publications

1. Navim Kabir, Chowdhury Md. (2023). Fluctuation of serum creatinine: preoperative and postoperative evaluation of chronic kidney disease patients. *Journal of Clinical Nephrology*. 7. 012-017. 10.29328/journal.jcn.1001102.
2. Navim Kabir, Chowdhury Md. (2022). Catheter Induced Urinary Tract Infection: Post Surgical Prevalence with Curative and Preventive Management. *OALib*. 09. 10.4236/oalib.1109513.
3. Chowdhury, Md & Navim Kabir, Chowdhury Md & Jones, Sabrina. (2022). Surgical Site Infection: Impacts and Challenges of Antibiotic Rationalism. 10. 243-250.

Biography

Chowdhury Md Navim Kabir graduated from Chittagong Medical College at the University of Chittagong. His keen interest in Surgery and Urology, article writing. He has published five research articles in International Journal.

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