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DYSPHAGIA IN IDIOPATHIC INFLAMMATORY MYOPATHY PATIENTS WITH ANTI-FHL1 AUTOANTIBODY

Ju-Pi Li and Joung-Liang Lan

China Medical University Hospital, Taiwan

FH₁ (four and a half LIM domains protein 1), is a cysteine-rich double Zinc-finger structure protein, highly expresses in skeletal and cardiac muscles. FHL1 is shown to involve in muscle growth, myoblast differentiation, sarcomere formation and structural maintenance. The gene and protein of FHL1 is associated with several diseases, including Emery–Dreifuss muscular dystrophy, reducing body myopathy, X-linked myopathy characterized by postural muscle atrophy, and scapuloperoneal myopathy. Recent study further shows that the anti-FHL1 autoantibody has a potential pathogenic role in idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs) patients. Thus, our study aims to examine whether the anti-FHL1 autoantibody is associated with IIMs patients in Taiwan. Anti-FHL1 autoantibodies in plasmas from IIM patients are compared with healthy controls, as well as disease controls from SLE patients via ELISAs and immunoblot analyses. We found that the anti-FHL1 autoantibody is shown to be a novel and muscle-specific autoantibody in Taiwan IIMs patients. It may coexist with other myositis-specific autoantibody. IIM Patients with anti-FHL1 autoantibody have higher disease severity, especially in dysphagia and muscle weakness.

Biography

Ju-Pi Li has completed her PhD from National Tsing Hua University and Postdoctoral studies from Immunology Research Center, National Health Research Institutes in Taiwan. She is an Assistant Research Fellow of China Medical University Hospital. She has published about 20 papers in reputed journals.

d888203@gmail.com