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Anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid associated with ulcerative colitis and psoriasis vulgaris showing autoantibodies to laminin γ 1, type XVII collagen and laminin-332

Anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid is a novel autoimmune subepidermal bullous disease characterized by the presence of circulating immunoglobulin (Ig) G autoantibodies to laminin γ 1, a common constituent at various basement membrane zones (BMZs). Although an association between various subepidermal blistering diseases and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) has been reported, there have been no previous reports on an association between anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid and IBD. Here, we demonstrate a case of anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid associated with ulcerative colitis (UC), in whom circulating autoantibodies against laminin γ 1, laminin-332 and the C-terminus of type XVII collagen (BP180) were detected.

A 65-year-old Japanese man was referred to our hospital for worsening widespread tense blisters with pruritus over the entire body. He had previously been diagnosed with psoriasis vulgaris and UC. The symptoms of UC, namely fever, bloody stool and abdominal pain, had recently worsened, with the subsequent appearance of blisters. Clinical examination revealed prominent oedematous erythema, tense blisters and erosions with a few scattered milia on the entire body (figure 1A). No mucosal involvement was observed. Histopathology of a lesional skin biopsy specimen demonstrated subepidermal blisters with infiltra-

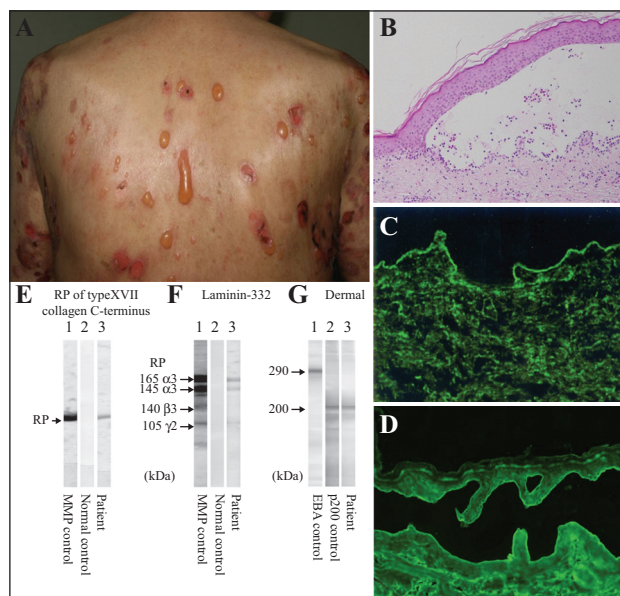


Figure 1. Clinical manifestations, histopathological findings, IF results, and the results of IB analyses. **A)** Tense blisters, erosions and erythema were seen on the whole body. **B)** Histopathological findings of subepidermal blisters with eosinophilic and neutrophilic infiltration. **C)** Direct IF for IgG deposition. **D)** Indirect IF of 1M sodium chloride-split normal human skin. **E)** IB of recombinant protein (RP) of the C terminus of type XVII collagen. Positive IgG reactivity with by positive MMP control (lane 1) and our patient (lane 3), but not by negative control (lane 2). **F)** IB of purified human laminin-332. Positive IgG reactivity with the 165-kDa and 145-kDa α 3, the 140-kD β 2 and the 105-kDa subunits of laminin-332 by positive MMP control (lane 1), but not normal control (lane 2). Our patient reacted with the 165-kDa and 145-kDa α 3 and the 105-kDa γ 2 subunits (lane 3). **G)** IB of normal human dermal extract. Positive IgG reactivity of epidermolysis bullosa acquisita (EBA) control with the 290-kDa type VII collagen (lane 1). Anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid control (p200) (lane 2) and our patient (lane 3) reacted with the 200-kDa laminin- γ 1.

tion of eosinophils and neutrophils at the dermoepidermal junction and in the papillary dermis (figure 1B). Direct immunofluorescence (IF) of the lesional skin showed linear deposition of IgG and complement component 3 at the epidermal BMZ (figure 1C). Indirect IF detected circulating IgG autoantibodies, which bound to both the epidermal and dermal sides of 1M sodium chloride-split normal human skin at titre 1:20 (figure 1D). Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay using recombinant protein of the NC16a domain of type XVII collagen showed a negative result. To determine the target antigen of the patient autoantibodies, immunoblotting (IB) analyses were performed as previously described [1–3]. The results showed the presence of three distinct circulating IgG autoantibodies against laminin γ 1, the C-terminus of type XVII collagen and the α 3 and γ 2 subunits of laminin-332 (figures 1E–G). After initial treatment with oral prednisolone 1 mg/kg/day, the skin lesions rapidly healed with milium formation. When prednisolone was tapered to 0.4 mg/kg/day, tense blisters reappeared. Additional administration of mizoribine 2 mg/kg/day ameliorated the skin lesions, and thereafter prednisolone was gradually

tapered to 0.15 mg/kg/day. Prednisolone 0.15 mg/kg/day and mizoribine 2 mg/kg/day controlled the bullae and erosions well.

While anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid reacts with laminin γ 1, autoantibodies to the C-terminus of type XVII collagen and laminin-332 are detected in anti-BP180-type and anti-laminin-332-type, respectively, of mucous membrane pemphigoid (MMP). Although both of these MMP autoantibodies were detected in the IB assays, the present case showed no mucosal involvement. In addition, the tense blisters and urticarial skin lesions resembling bullous pemphigoid, rapid response to systemic treatments, coexistence of psoriasis vulgaris, and non-scarring resolution of skin lesions were consistent with the characteristics of anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid [4]. Altogether, these findings indicated that the diagnosis of anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid was appropriate in this case.

The current classification of autoimmune blistering diseases based on targeted antigens may be relatively inappropriate in some cases, as in the present case in which several autoantigens were detected. This issue is likely to occur more frequently because of the increasingly concomitant use of various sensitive techniques. Appropriate diagnosis should be determined not only from the results of serological analysis but also from clinical features.

It has been reported that approximately 30–50% of anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid cases are associated with psoriasis vulgaris [4–6]. Our patient had concurrent psoriasis vulgaris and UC with anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid. Furthermore, blister formation occurred in conjunction with worsening of the UC symptoms. Concurrence of IBD and subepidermal bullous dermatosis, including linear IgA bullous dermatitis, pemphigoid group and epidermolysis bullosa acquisita, has been reported [7]. However, to our knowledge, there are no previous reports describing concurrent anti-laminin γ 1 pemphigoid and UC. Several major laminin trimers containing the laminin γ 1 subunit exist in the intestinal BMZ [8]. IBD results from a breakdown of the epithelial layer and exposure of the components of the BMZ to the immune system. Accordingly, we speculate that laminin γ 1 was first processed by intestinal inflammation in the present case. The laminin γ 1 fragments may promote the production of anti-laminin γ 1 autoantibodies, resulting in BMZ separation in the skin. ■

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Osteomalacia induced by a phosphaturic mesenchymal tumor secreting fibroblast growth factor 23

Tumor-induced osteomalacia (TIO) is a rare paraneoplastic condition characterised by the presence of a tumor, hypophosphatemia caused by renal phosphate wasting and low serum concentration of 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D [1,25(OH)₂D], with clinical and histological evidence of osteomalacia [1-4]. Hypophosphatemia subsequently causes muscle weakness, bone pain and multiple fractures [1]. Most cases of TIO are associated with mesenchymal tumors secreting fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23) [1], which was recently identified as an important factor involved in the development of hypophosphatemic rickets and osteomalacia. We report a case of TIO with a subcutaneous tumor. Interestingly, the osteomalacia dramatically improved after resection of the tumor.

A 28-year-old Japanese man presented with a 5-year history of pain in the lower back and right knee, which gradually worsened over time. Bone mineral density (BMD) was 0.649 g/cm². Serum chemistry showed low phosphate (1.7 mg/dl) and intact parathormone (13.4 pg/mL), increased alkaline phosphatase (599 U/L), and decreased reabsorption of phosphatase. The level of 1,25-(OH)₂D3 was within the normal range (45.8 pg/mL). FGF23 was elevated in the peripheral blood (1340 pg/mL). From these results, tumor-induced osteomalacia was suggested, but the tumor could not be localized. An F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) test showed no remarkable changes. Venous blood samplings for FGF23 were performed from both right and left dorsal, femoral and median veins, and a significantly higher level of FGF23 (9900 pg/mL) was detected from the left dorsal vein than from the other veins, sug-