

Rhyner, C., Zeller, S., Johansson, C., Scheynius, A., Cramer, R. (2011): The IgE-binding self-antigens tubulin- α and HLA-DR- α are overexpressed in lesional skin of atopic eczema patients. *J. Clin. Cell. Immunol.*, 2: 109.

Background: Atopic eczema is the most common chronic, relapsing, inflammatory skin disorder with an atopic background. Previous studies have shown that IgE-mediated reactivity to self-antigens plays a role in the pathogenesis of the disease. However, the expression of self-antigens associated with atopic eczema in the lesional skin is poorly investigated.

Aim of the study: This study was aimed to show that IgE-binding self antigens are over-expressed in atopic eczema lesions.

Methods: Tubulin- α and HLA-DR- α , two recently described self-antigens, were stained by immunohistochemistry in skin specimens from chronic and acute atopic eczema lesions, unaffected skin from the same patients or skin from healthy controls.

Results: The expression of tubulin- α and HLA-DR- α is up-regulated in atopic eczema lesions compared to nonlesional or healthy skin and correlates with the number of infiltrating immune cells and the degree of inflammation.

Conclusion: Upregulation of IgE-binding self-antigens in lesional skin of atopic eczema patients might further promote the existing inflammation and induce exacerbations of the disease in the absence of exposure to environmental allergens.