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Introduction

Asthma is a chronic respiratory condition affecting millions of people worldwide. It is characterized by airway inflammation and hyperresponsiveness, leading to recurrent episodes of wheezing, coughing, and shortness of breath. The pathogenesis of asthma is complex, involving genetic and environmental factors. Biomarkers are biological indicators that can be used to diagnose, monitor, and predict the course of the disease. This review discusses the role of various biomarkers in asthma management, including FeNO, eosinophils, and periostin, and their potential in predicting treatment response and exacerbations.

Biomarkers in asthma diagnosis

Traditionally, asthma diagnosis relies on clinical symptoms, lung function tests, and a response to treatment. However, the use of biomarkers can improve the accuracy of diagnosis and help identify specific asthma phenotypes. Biomarkers such as FeNO, eosinophils, and periostin are associated with airway inflammation and can be used to support the diagnosis of asthma.

Predicting asthma exacerbations

One of the major challenges in asthma management is predicting exacerbations. Exacerbations are acute episodes of increased symptoms that require medical intervention. Identifying patients at high risk of exacerbations can help optimize treatment and prevent hospitalizations. Biomarkers such as FeNO, eosinophils, and periostin have been studied as potential predictors of exacerbations.

in asthma control. A systematic literature search was performed using databases such as PubMed, Google Scholar, and Web of Science [8]. The search included studies published in English between 2010 and 2022.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Studies were included if they were published in peer-reviewed journals, focused on human subjects with asthma, and provided insights into biomarkers related to asthma control. Exclusion criteria encompassed non-full-text availability, animal or in vitro studies, and non-English publications.

Data extraction

Data from selected studies were extracted using a standardized form, capturing study design, biomarkers investigated, key findings related to asthma control, and limitations.

Biomarkers of Interest

The review focused on key biomarkers associated with asthma control, including Fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO), blood eosinophil counts, and periostin, among others.

Data analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the findings. Meta-analyses or systematic reviews were consulted where applicable to strengthen the evidence [9,10].

Quality assessment

The quality of studies was assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale for observational studies and the Cochrane Risk of Bias Tool for randomized controlled trials.

Limitations

Limitations include potential publication bias, variability in study methodologies, and differences in patient populations.

Ethical considerations

Ethical approval was not required as this review is based on published data from publicly available sources. By employing these materials and methods, this mini-review aims to provide a rigorous exploration of biomarkers in asthma control, offering valuable insights for future research and clinical practice.

Results

Biomarkers in asthma diagnosis

Several biomarkers have shown promise in aiding asthma diagnosis. Fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO) and blood eosinophil counts have emerged as valuable indicators of eosinophilic inflammation, a subtype of asthma often responsive to corticosteroids.

Predicting asthma exacerbations

Biomarkers such as periostin and blood eosinophil counts have been linked to an increased risk of asthma exacerbations. Elevated levels of these biomarkers can help identify patients at higher risk, allowing for timely interventions to prevent severe attacks.

Personalizing asthma treatment

The role of biomarkers in guiding personalized asthma treatment is increasingly recognized. Patients with high eosinophil counts may

benefit from anti-inflammatory medications like corticosteroids, while those with low eosinophil levels might require alternative treatments.

Monitoring treatment response

Monitoring biomarkers can help assess the effectiveness of asthma treatments. A decline in FeNO levels or eosinophil counts following treatment initiation may indicate a positive response, whereas persistent elevation could suggest the need for dose adjustment or alternative therapies.

Other potential biomarkers

Apart from the well-established biomarkers, emerging research

biomarkers, exploring new potential indicators, and integrating biomarkers into comprehensive asthma management algorithms. Collaboration between researchers, clinicians, and industry stakeholders is crucial to overcoming existing challenges and advancing the field.

Conclusion

In conclusion, biomarkers hold immense promise for unlocking better asthma control by providing valuable insights into disease pathophysiology, guiding personalized treatment decisions, and monitoring treatment response. While challenges exist, ongoing research and technological advancements offer opportunities to overcome these hurdles. By embracing the potential of biomarkers and addressing the associated challenges, healthcare providers can move closer to achieving personalized, targeted asthma management, ultimately leading to better outcomes and improved quality of life for asthma patients. The integration of biomarkers into clinical practice represents a significant step forward in the quest for optimal asthma control.

References

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