

# Association Between IL-10 Rs1800896, TLR 9 Rs5743836, and TNF $\alpha$ Rs1800629 Genes Polymorphisms and Blepharoconjunctivitis of Different Genes

H. Y. Karimov<sup>1</sup>, H. M. Kamilov<sup>2</sup>, Sh. Sh. Nurmatov<sup>3</sup>, Sh. R. Abdullaev<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Molecular Medicine and Cell Technologies, Laboratory of Medical Genetics, Research Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

<sup>2</sup>Center for the Development of Professional Qualifications of Medical Workers, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

<sup>3</sup>Republic Hospital of Eye Diseases, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**Abstract** There are several causes of vision system disorders and blindness, among which inflammatory diseases of the eye occupy the main place. The mechanism of the origin of inflammatory diseases in the eye area has not been thoroughly studied, and in this case, it occurs as a result of the complex effect of factors such as bacterial toxins, mechanical damage and immune dysfunction. Therefore, it is of great practical importance to identify polymorphisms that affect the expression and normal activity of TLR9, the proinflammatory cytokine TNF $\alpha$  and the anti-inflammatory IL10, which are important in the development of the innate immune response in the study of the mechanism of the development of inflammatory diseases of the visual system. it is possible to draw a conclusion about the relationship between genetic markers.

**Keywords** TLR9, rs5743836, TNF $\alpha$ , rs1800629, IL-10, rs1800896, Blepharoconjunctivitis, Demodectic Blepharoconjunctivitis

## 1. Introduction

Blepharoconjunctivitis - blepharitis and conjunctivitis are mutually complex manifestations and belong to the group of ophthalmological diseases. It is characterized by inflammation of the edge of the eyelids (blepharitis) and the surrounding conjunctiva (conjunctivitis). It is closely related to blepharitis and can be considered an advanced or aggravated form of blepharitis. If blepharitis is not treated in the early stages, the inflammation can spread to the nearby conjunctiva causing blepharoconjunctivitis [1]. It is difficult to distinguish the cause of blepharoconjunctivitis from the cause of blepharitis, which is related to the closeness of the eye structures and conjunctivitis in many cases also occurs together with blepharitis [2].

Blepharoconjunctivitis can be divided into groups according to the clinical characteristics, in particular, the presence of diffuse ulcers in the marginal part of the eyelid is divided into types of infectious etiology, allergic etiology blepharoconjunctivitis with an acute onset without ulcers. But it should be noted that the absence of sores does not rule out infection. Acute infectious blepharitis can have a bacterial, viral or parasitic etiology [3]. According to the bacterial type, the most common blepharitis or blepharoconjunctivitis is blepharitis caused by staphylococcus.

The development of staphylococcal blepharitis is considered to be due to inflammation of the eye surface with staphylococcal bacteria. However, the mechanism by which bacteria cause the symptoms of blepharitis is not fully understood. Comparison of ocular surface bacterial flora between healthy subjects and those diagnosed with staphylococcal blepharitis revealed some differences. In particular, only 8% of healthy examined patients were positive for *Staphylococcus aureus*, this indicator was found in 46-51% of patients diagnosed with staphylococcal blepharitis [4]. Because only half of patients diagnosed with staphylococcal blepharitis have positive cultures for *S. aureus*, additional contributing factors are thought to be present. Some researchers have suggested that the alteration may be caused by toxins produced by certain strains of *S. aureus* or *S. epidermis* [5]. 40% of patients with blepharitis have been found to have increased cellular immunity against *S. aureus*, a hyperergic immune response, and these patients often require topical corticosteroid therapy [6].

Demodex parasites are also among the factors causing blepharitis and cause specific demodexosis blepharoconjunctivitis [7]. Blepharitis is thought to be caused by factors and wastes produced by demodex mites in the eyelash follicles and sebaceous glands of the eyelid causing the follicles and glands to become blocked and/or an inflammatory response [8]. In addition, demodex mites can cause blepharitis by carrying with them various bacteria such as streptococci and staphylococci [9], in which immune

reactions are involved. In addition, it has been found that the bacteria inside the demodex mites can exacerbate blepharitis by inducing an immune response. *Bacillus oleronius* found in demodex mites has been found to have a proliferative effect on mononuclear cells in the peripheral blood of patients. Thus, demodex mites play an important role in the pathogenesis of demodex blepharoconjunctivitis by modulating the host's immune response by inducing hypersensitivity [10,11].

**The purpose of the work:** to analyze IL-10 gene rs1800896 polymorphism, TLR 9 gene rs5743836 polymorphism, and TNF-A gene rs1800629 polymorphism in patients with blepharitis or blepharoconjunctivitis of different genesis.

## 2. Material and Methods

78 patients with blepharitis or blepharoconjunctivitis of various genesis were examined for the purpose of scientific research and they formed the main group. Also, for the purpose of comparison, 50 conditionally healthy donors without blepharitis or blepharoconjunctivitis were examined. Blepharitis or blepharoconjunctivitis was detected in the examined patients using the 10th revision of the manual "International Classification of Diseases" (2019 -

<https://mkb-10.com/index.php?pid=6052>). According to it, chronic blepharoconjunctivitis occurred in 12 (15.4%) patients, blepharitis in 13 (16.7%) patients, acute inflammatory blepharoconjunctivitis and conjunctivitis in a total of 23 (29.5%) patients, demodectic blepharoconjunctivitis in 23 (29.5%) patients. in patients and non-specific conjunctivitis was found in 7 (9%) patients. The purpose of dividing the groups in this order was not only to determine the relationship between the tested gene polymorphisms and general blepharoconjunctivitis disease, but also to compare them with specific genesis blepharoconjunctivitis diseases and to determine which of the tested polymorphisms increase the risk of blepharoconjunctivitis development.

In a clinical study, IL-10 gene rs1800896 polymorphism, TLR 9 gene rs5743836 polymorphism, and TNF-A gene rs1800629 polymorphism were examined in the blood of 78 patients with blepharoconjunctivitis. In the detection of IL-10 gene rs1800896 polymorphism, TLR 9 gene rs5743836 polymorphism, and TNF-A gene rs1800629 polymorphism in the venous blood of patients, nucleotide sequencing was performed using polymerase chain reaction on a DT-Lite 48 amplifier, using DNA-technology (Russia) reagents. Specific statistical processing was performed on the obtained results.

**Table 1.** Percentage distribution of alleles and genotypes in the main and control groups

Type of polymorphisms	Main group					Control group				
	Alleles		Genotypes			Alleles		Genotypes		
	Wild type	Minor type	Homozygous wild	Heterozygous	Homozygous mutant	Wild type	Minor type	Homozygous wild	Heterozygous	Homozygous mutant
IL10 rs1800896	82.7	17.3	71.8	24.4	3.8	77.0	23.0	60.0	34.0	6.0
TLR9 rs5743836	88.5	11.5	77.0	23.0	0.0	94.0	6.0	88.0	12.0	0.0
TNF $\alpha$ rs1800629	92.9	7.1	85.9	14.1	0.0	97.0	3.0	94.0	6.0	0.0

**Table 2.** Comparison of the empirical results determined in the polymorphisms investigated in the main and control groups with the theoretical - expected results calculated by the Hardy-Weinberg law

Type of polymorphism	Main group							$\chi^2$	p-value	
	Observed			Expected						
	Homozygous wild	Heterozygous	Homozygous mutant	Homozygous wild	Heterozygous	Homozygous mutant				
rs1800896	0.718	0.244	0.038	0.705	0.27	0.025	0.70	0.70		
rs5743836	0.77	0.23	0.0	0.78	0.20	0.012	1.32	0.51		
rs1800629	0.859	0.141	0.0	0.864	0.131	0.005	0.49	0.79		
Type of polymorphism	Control group							$\chi^2$	p-value	
rs1800896	0.60	0.34	0.06	0.60	0.34	0.06	0.08			0.96
rs5743836	0.88	0.12	0.0	0.884	0.112	0.004	0.2			0.90
rs1800629	0.859	0.141	0.0	0.941	0.059	0.0	0.047	0.97		

**Table 3.** Distribution of frequency of occurrence of various polymorphisms in basic and relative groups

Polymorphpism	Patient n(%)	Control n(%)	$\chi^2$	P	OR	95%CI
IL-10 rs1800896						
C	129 (82.7)	77 (77.0)	1.8	0.18	1.54	0.819-2.90
A	25 (17.3)	23 (23.0)	1.8	0.18	0.299	0.345-1.22
C/C	56 (71.8)	30 (60.0)	1.92	0.166	1.7	0.801-3.59
C/A	19 (24.4)	17 (34.0)	1.4	0.24	0.625	0.286-1.35
A/A	3 (3.8)	3 (6.0)	0.33	0.56	0.627	0.121-3.235
TLR 9 rs5743836						
T	138 (88.5)	94 (94.0)	2.2	0.14	0.49	0.187-1.279
C	18 (11.5)	6 (6.0)	2.2	0.14	2.04	0.782-5.34
T/T	60 (77.0)	44 (88.0)	2.45	0.12	0.45	0.167-1.239
T/C	18 (23.0)	6 (12.0)	2.45	0.12	2.2	0.81-5.995
C/C	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-
TNF $\alpha$ rs1800629						
G	145 (92.9)	97 (97.0)	1.93	0.165	0.41	0.111-0.149
A	11 (7.1)	3 (3.0)	1.93	0.165	2.45	0.667-9.02
G/G	67 (85.9)	47 (94.0)	2.05	0.152	0.389	0.103-1.470
G/A	11 (14.1)	3 (6.0)	2.05	0.152	2.57	0.680-9.725
A/A	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-

### 3. Results

According to the examined polymorphisms, the IL-10 gene rs1800896 polymorphism in the main and control group was homozygous wild, heterozygous and homozygous mutant genotypes, respectively, 44 (71.8%) and 30 (60.0%); 18 (24.0%) and 17 (34.0%); 3 (3.8%) and 3 (6.0%) were detected in subjects, and in TLR 9 gene rs5743836 polymorphism, homozygous wild and heterozygous genotypes were 57 (77.0%) and 44 (88.0%); 8 (23.0%) and 6 (12.0%) patients with a homozygous mutant genotype were identified in the main and control groups, and 55 (85.9%) and 47 (94.0) patients with a homozygous wild-type and heterozygous genotype for the TNF-A gene rs1800629 polymorphism, respectively. ; 10 (14.0%) and 3 (6.0%) were obtained (see Table 1).

Empirical-observed indices determined in polymorphisms in the main and control groups were compared with theoretically-expected indices calculated by the Hardy-Weinberg law. As a result, there was no deviation from the expected indicators in the main and control groups ( $\chi^2 < 3.84$ ?  $R > 0.05$ ), which indicates that the determined results are broken according to the Hardy-Weinberg law (see Table 2).

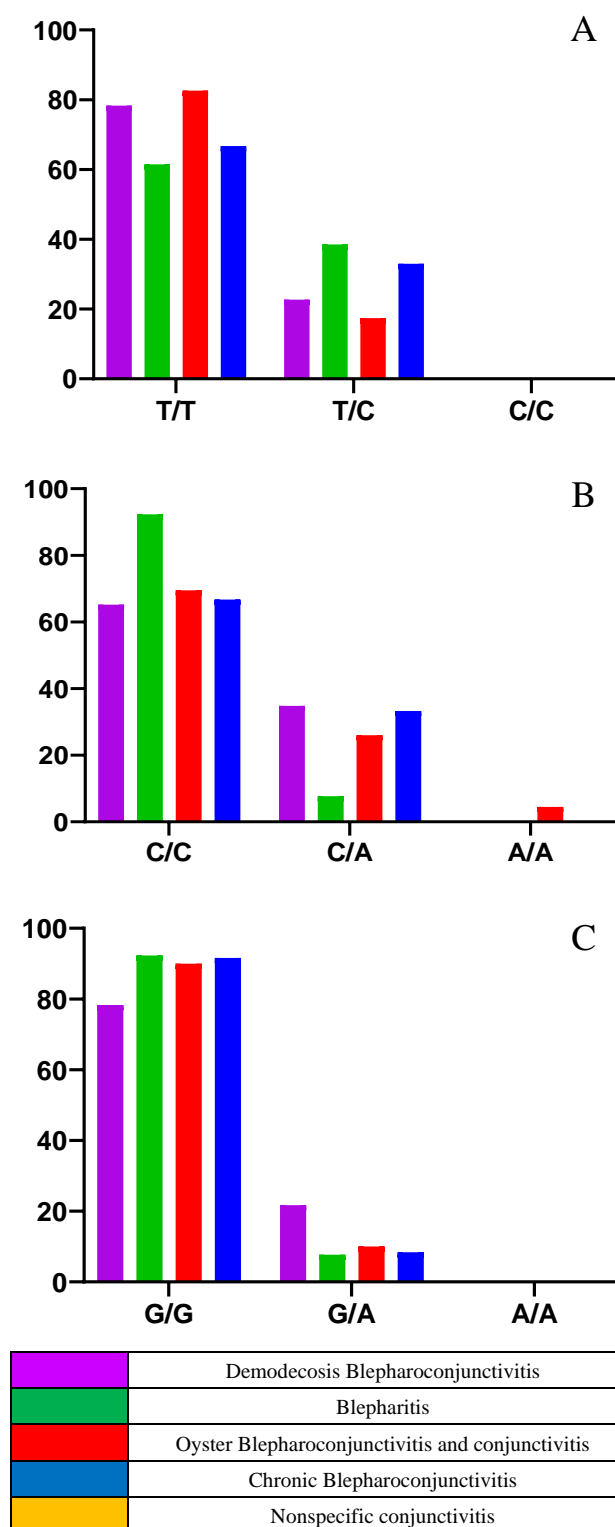
Also, when analyzing the pathogenetic significance of the examined polymorphisms, no statistically significant correlation was found between the minor A allele, G/A and A/A genotypes and the development of blepharoconjunctivitis on the IL10 gene G1082A (rs1800896) polymorphism: (in the A allele –  $\chi^2 = 1.8$ ?  $p < 0.18$ ; OR=4.05, 95% CI 1.94-8.42,  $\chi^2 = 1.4$  in C/A genotype?  $p = 0.24$ ; OR=3.99, 95% CI 2, 86-1.35, A/A genotype  $\chi^2 = 0.33$ ?  $p = 0.56$ ;

OR=0.63, 95% CI 0.121-3.235), similarly, the significance of wild-type C allele and CC genotype in the development of blepharoconjunctivitis was statistically unreliable (C allele –  $\chi^2 = 1.8$ ?  $p = 0.18$ ; OR=1.54, 95% CI 0.82-2.90 and CC genotype  $\chi^2 = 1.92$ ?  $p = 0.16$ ; OR=1.7, 95% CI 0.81–3.59) (Table 3).

Similarly, the results of TLR9 gene rs5743836 polymorphism, the minor S allele and T/C genotypes increase the risk of developing blepharoconjunctivitis according to the relative risk factor (OR), 2.04 (95% CI 0.782-5.34) and 2.2 (95% CI 0.782-5.34), respectively. % CI 0.81-5.99) was found to increase the polymorphism with the disease was not statistically significant ( $\chi^2 < 3.84$ ?  $p > 0.05$ ), and similar wild T allele and T/T genotypes were protective in the development of the disease although the presence of an effect was determined, this relationship was not statistically reliable (T allele – OR=0.49, 95% CI 0.187-1.28,  $\chi^2 = 2.2$ ?  $p = 0.14$  and T/T genotype OR=0.45, 95% CI 0.167-1.24,  $\chi^2 = 2.45$ ?  $p = 0.12$ ) (Table 3).

Similarly, the minor A allele and heterozygous genotype (G/A) in the TNF $\alpha$  rs1800629 polymorphism increased the risk of developing blepharoconjunctivitis (OR=2.45, 95% CI 0.667-9.02 and OR=2.57, 95% CI 0.667-9.02, respectively). , 68-9,72), wild G allele and homozygous G/G genotype were found to be protective (respectively, OR=0.41, 95% CI 0.111-0.149 and OR=0.389, 95% CI 0.103- 1.47), the chi-square index did not show a reliable association between disease and polymorphism ( $\chi^2 < 3.84$ ?  $p > 0.05$ ).

Thus, the results of the conducted research did not reveal a statistically reliable relationship between the rs5743836, rs1800629 and rs1800896 polymorphisms and the development of blepharoconjunctivitis of different genesis.



**Figure 1.** Results of distribution of tested polymorphisms in patients grouped by MKB classification. A – TLR9 gene T1237S (rs5743836) polymorphism; B – IL-10 gene G1082A (rs1800896) polymorphism; C – TNF $\alpha$  gene G308A (rs1800629) polymorphism

Thus, the results of the conducted research did not reveal a statistically reliable relationship between the rs5743836, rs1800629 and rs1800896 polymorphisms and the development of blepharoconjunctivitis of different genesis. Therefore,

the distribution of investigated polymorphisms and patients with blepharoconjunctivitis were grouped according to the genesis of the disease, and the significance of polymorphisms was checked (Fig. 1).

According to it, rs5743836, rs1800896 and rs1800629 polymorphisms were in the form of a single minor allele (heterozygous) in 4 (33.3%), 4 (33.3%) and 1 (8.3%) patients with chronic blepharoconjunctivitis, respectively.; 5 (38.5%), 1 (7.7%) and 1 (7.7%) patients with blepharitis; 4 (17.4%), 6 (26.0%) and 3 (13.0%) of patients with acute blepharoconjunctivitis and conjunctivitis and 5 (21.7%), 8 (34.5%) and 5 (21.7%) cases, interestingly, the minor type allele was not detected in patients with nonspecific type of conjunctivitis (Fig. 1).

After grouping the patients with blepharoconjunctivitis based on the genesis of the disease, the pathogenetic significance of the polymorphisms examined during the study was checked in the patient groups (see Tables 4, 5 and 6). It should also be mentioned that statistical analysis was not performed in cases where the number of patients with a polymorphism variant was not higher than 10%.

As shown in Table 4, when the prevalence frequency of TLR9 gene T1237S polymorphism minor allele was checked in different groups and the control group, the chi-square index showed a statistically reliable association only in blepharitis ( $\chi^2 > 3.84$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ). According to it, the minor allele - S and the heterozygous genotype (T/S) increased the risk of developing blepharitis (respectively, OR=3.73, 95% CI 1.04-13.4 and OR=4.58, 95% CI 1.12-18.7), the wild-type T allele and homozygous T/T genotypes were found to be protective (OR=0.27, 95% CI 0.07-0.96 and OR=0.72, 95% CI 0.05-0.89, respectively).

Distribution of TLR9 gene T1237S polymorphism in diseases of other genesis was not statistically significant ( $\chi^2 < 3.84$ ;  $p > 0.05$ ).

Also, as shown in Table 5, when the frequency of IL10 gene rs1800896 polymorphism minor allele was examined in different groups and the control group, no statistically reliable association was found between patients with various diseases and IL10 gene rs1800896 polymorphism ( $\chi^2 < 3.84$ ;  $p > 0.05$ ).

As shown in Table 6, when analyzing the frequency of the TNF $\alpha$  gene G308A polymorphism minor allele in different groups and the control group, the chi-square index showed a statistically reliable association only in demodectic blepharoconjunctivitis ( $\chi^2 = 3.99$ ;  $p = 0.046$ ). According to it, the minor allele - A and the heterozygous genotype (G/A) have an inducing effect (OR=3.94, 95% CI 0.90-17.2 and OR=4.35, 95% CI 0.94-20.1, respectively) in the development of demodectic blepharoconjunctivitis, wild G Allelic and homozygous G/G genotypes were found to be protective (respectively, OR=0.62, 95% CI 0.18-2.06 and OR=0.23, 95% CI 0.05-1.06).

Distribution of TNF $\alpha$  gene G308A polymorphism in diseases of other genesis was not statistically significant ( $\chi^2 < 3.84$ ;  $p > 0.05$ ).

**Table 4.** Distribution of TLR9 gene rs5743836 polymorphism in patients with blepharoconjunctivitis disease of different genesis

Types of diseases	Patient n (%)	Control n (%)	$\chi^2$	P	OR	95%CI
Acute blepharoconjunctivitis and conjunctivitis						
T	42 (91.3)	94 (94.0)	0,36	0.55	0.67	0.18-2.50
C	4 (8.7)	6 (6.0)	0,36	0.55	1.49	0.40-5.56
T/T	19 (82.6)	44 (88.0)	0.39	0.53	0.65	0.16-2.56
T/C	4 (17.4)	6 (12.0)	0.39	0.53	1.54	0.39-6.10
C/C	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-
Blepharitis						
T	21 (80.7)	94 (94.0)	4.5	0.034	0.27	0.07-0.96
C	5 (19.3)	6 (6.0)	4.5	0.034	3.73	1.04-13.4
T/T	8 (61.5)	44 (88.0)	5.0	0.026	0.72	0.05-0.89
T/C	5 (38.5)	6 (12.0)	5.0	0.026	4.58	1.12-18.7
C/C	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-
Chronic blepharoconjunctivitis						
T	20 (80.7)	94 (94.0)	2.97	0.085	0.32	0.08-1.24
C	4 (19.3)	6 (6.0)	2.97	0.085	3.13	0.81-12.14
T/T	8 (61.5)	44 (88.0)	3.26	0.072	0.27	0.06-1.19
T/C	4 (38.5)	6 (12.0)	3.26	0.072	3.67	0.84-15.99
C/C	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-
Blepharoconjunctivitis with demodicosis						
T	41 (89.1)	94 (94.0)	1.07	0.3	0.52	0.15-1.81
C	5 (10.9)	6 (6.0)	1.07	0.3	1.91	0.55-6.62
T/T	18 (78.3)	44 (88.0)	1.17	0.28	0.49	0.133-1.82
T/C	5 (21.7)	6 (12.0)	1.17	0.28	2.04	0.55-7.53
C/C	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-

**Table 5.** Distribution of IL10 gene rs1800896 polymorphism in patients with blepharoconjunctivitis disease of different genesis

Types of diseases	Patient n(%)	Control n(%)	$\chi^2$	P	OR	95%CI
Acute blepharoconjunctivitis and conjunctivitis						
C	38 (82.6)	77 (77.0)	0.59	0.44	1.42	0.58-3.47
A	8 (17.4)	23 (23.0)	0.59	0.44	0.71	0.28-1.72
C/C	16 (69.5)	30 (60.0)	0.62	0.43	1.52	0.53-4.37
C/A	6 (26.0)	17 (34.0)	0.45	0.49	0.68	0.23-2.06
A/A	1 (4.34)	3 (6.0)	0.08	0.77	0.71	0.07-7.24
Chronic blepharoconjunctivitis						
C	20 (83.3)	77 (77.0)	0.45	0.50	1.49	0.46-4.81
A	4 (16.7)	23 (23.0)	0.45	0.50	0.67	0.21-2.16
C/C	8 (66.7)	30 (60.0)	0.18	0.67	1.33	0.35-5.03
C/A	4 (33.3)	17 (34.0)	0.0	0.96	0.97	0.25-3.69
A/A	0 (0.0)	3 (6.0)	0.75	0.385	-	-
Blepharoconjunctivitis with demodicosis						
C	38 (82.6)	77 (77.0)	0.59	0.44	1.42	0.58-3.46
A	8 (17.4)	23 (23.0)	0.59	0.44	0.3	0.28-1.72
C/C	15 (65.2)	30 (60.0)	0.18	0.67	1.25	0.44-3.49
C/A	8 (34.8)	17 (34.0)	0.0	0.948	1.04	0.366-2.92
A/A	0 (0.0)	3 (6.0)	1.44	0.23	-	-

**Table 6.** Distribution of TNF $\alpha$  gene rs1800629 polymorphism in patients with blepharoconjunctivitis disease of different genesis

Types of diseases	Patient n(%)	Control n(%)	$\chi^2$	P	OR	95%CI
Acute blepharoconjunctivitis and conjunctivitis						
G	43 (93.5)	97 (97.0)	0.99	0.32	0.44	0.08-2.28
A	3 (6.6)	3 (3.0)	0.99	0.32	2.25	0.44-11.6
G/G	20 (87.0)	47 (94.0)	1.04	0.31	0.42	0.08-2.29
G/A	3 (23.0)	3 (6.0)	1.04	0.31	2.35	0.44-12.6
A/A	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-
Blepharoconjunctivitis with demodicosis						
G	41 (89.0)	97 (97.0)	3.77	0.053	0.62	0.18-2.06
A	5 (11.0)	3 (3.0)	3.77	0.053	3.94	0.90-17.2
G/G	18 (78.3)	47 (94.0)	3.99	0.046	0.23	0.05-1.06
G/A	5 (21.7)	3 (6.0)	3.99	0.046	4.35	0.94-20.1
A/A	0	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-

## 4. Discussion

The results of various studies were studied in order to gain a deeper understanding of the mechanism of origin of the results determined by the investigated polymorphisms during the research.

TLRs (Toll-like receptors) are a family of receptors (PRRs) that recognize specific sequences on microorganisms and damaged cells, and play an important role in the activation of the innate immune system [11]. Studies have shown that microbial infection activates TLRs, and the interaction between TLRs and molecular sequences - PAMPs - promotes the induction of antimicrobial immunity [12] and the development of acquired immunity [13]. The protein encoded by the TLR9 gene is a member of the TLR family, which plays a key role in detecting various pathogens and activating innate immunity. They recognize pathogen-associated PAMPs expressed in infectious agents and induce the production of cytokines necessary for the development of innate immunity. Studies in mice and humans show that the TLR9 receptor promotes the innate immune response by recognizing unmethylated CpG dinucleotides in bacterial DNA [14].

As a result of this change T1237C polymorphism of TLR9 gene, by changing the sequence of TLR9 protein, its affinity to the DNA of microorganisms and other ligands is impaired and the efficiency of innate immune response development decreases. For example, the T1237C polymorphism has been shown to increase the risk of developing malaria, mainly in children, due to impaired ability of microorganisms to recognize ligands [15].

Similarly, in other studies, the TLR9 T1237C polymorphism may affect the normal functioning of the immune system by altering the production and activation of immune cells such as dendritic cells, macrophages, and T cells. For example, a study by Awasthi *et al* [16] showed that the TLR9 T1237C polymorphism was associated with impaired Th1 cytokine response in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. In a study by Leung *et al* [17], TLR9 T1237C

polymorphism was associated with decreased dendritic cell activation and cytokine production in response to CpG DNA stimulation.

The reason for this is probably due to the disruption of the normal activity of TLR9, which slows down the generation of an adequate immune response against pathogenic microorganisms, slows down their elimination, and creates favorable conditions for their development and deeper penetration into tissues and organs. Although, in our study, the association with TLR9 T1237C polymorphism was not determined in the main group of patients, when the main group was grouped according to the genesis of the disease, it was found that the minor allele S and T/S heterozygous genotypes were distributed in a statistically reliable high amount in patients with blepharitis disease (H01.0 – MKB10).

The balance of pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory cytokines is important in order to clear the pathogen and limit the damage to tissues and organs of the host organism. In particular, pro-inflammatory cytokines (e.g., TNF $\alpha$ ) mainly induce immune responses such as activation of macrophages, induction of apoptosis of damaged cells, and recruitment of additional immune cells, whereas anti-inflammatory cytokines (e.g., IL10) released from immune cells stimulate regulatory T cells and some macrophages. serves to suppress inflammation and immunity and enhances post-inflammatory regeneration and repair processes [18,19]. The balance of these cytokines can change at an inadequate time, creating conditions for the development of various chronic diseases and sepsis.

In particular, patients with the minor allele of the TNF $\alpha$  G308A polymorphism are at increased risk of autoimmune diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, or ankylosing spondylitis, and may be susceptible to certain infections [20]. This is because, as a result of TNF $\alpha$  G308A polymorphism, the G nucleotide in the promoter part of the gene is changed to A, which increases its affinity to transcription factors, which leads to an adequate level of TNF $\alpha$  in the plasma [21]. High concentrations of the cytokine TNF $\alpha$  can activate a variety of immune cells,

particularly macrophages and T cells. This leads to the recruitment of more immune cells to the site of inflammation or tissue damage and, due to the establishment of positive feedback, greater and more sustained damage to normal cells than to altered cells and tissues by exposure to the phlogogenic agent. In chronic inflammatory or autoimmune diseases, as this population continues for a long time, chronic inflammation may develop in the tissues [22].

In our study, although the correlation between TNF $\alpha$  G308A polymorphism and TNF $\alpha$  G308A polymorphism was not detected in the main group of patients, statistically reliable association was found between TNF $\alpha$  G308A polymorphism and demodectic blepharoconjunctivitis (B88.0 – MKB10) when patients in the main group were grouped according to the genesis of the disease. According to it, the development of demodectic blepharoconjunctivitis increased 4.35 (95%CI: 0.94-20.1) times in patients with heterozygous genotype of TNF $\alpha$  G308A polymorphism ( $\chi^2 > 3.84$ ?  $p < 0.05$ ). In our opinion, the reason for this is that under the influence of various factors or directly under the influence of demodectic parasites, the development of inflammation in the eyeball and the skin bordering on it creates conditions for the development of demodectic parasites due to the fact that a high amount of TNF $\alpha$  cytokine (due to the A allele) increases the diademesis of various immune cells and damages normal tissue. must be related to

On the other hand, as mentioned above, the normal production and function of anti-inflammatory cytokines are important in the development of an adequate immune response, and their decreased expression can create conditions for the development of various autoimmune and chronic diseases. In particular, polymorphisms in the IL10 gene promoter region (in particular, G1082A) have been associated with the development of a number of diseases, including autoimmune, infectious diseases, cancer, Alzheimer's disease (AD), and lymphoblastic leukemia [23]. This is because the A allele of the G1082A polymorphism reduces IL10 expression compared to the G allele. That is, the A allele disrupts the binding of transcription factors that induce IL10 gene expression [24].

However, in our study, no statistically significant association was found between patients and IL10 G1082A polymorphism in the main group and subgroups ( $\chi^2 < 3.84$ ?  $p > 0.05$ ).

## 5. Conclusions

According to the results of the study, no statistically reliable association was found between patients with blepharoconjunctivitis disease of different genesis (main group) and IL-10 gene rs1800896, TLR9 gene rs5743836 and TNF $\alpha$  gene rs1800629 polymorphisms ( $\chi^2 < 3.84$ ?  $p > 0.05$ ). On the other hand, when patients were grouped according to the genesis of the disease, a reliable association between TLR9 gene rs5743836 polymorphism and blepharitis was found ( $\chi^2 = 4.5$ ?  $p = 0.034$ ), compared to patients with the

heterozygous genotype, the disease development was 4.58 (95%CI: 1.12-18.7) times. increase was found. Thus, a statistically reliable correlation was found between TNF $\alpha$  gene rs1800629 polymorphism and the development of demodectic blepharoconjunctivitis ( $\chi^2 = 3.99$ ?  $p = 0.046$ ), and the disease development increased 4.35 (95%CI: 0.94-20.1) times in patients with the heterozygous genotype.

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