**What Is the Connection Between PI and MGUS/MCAS?**

I have hypogammaglobulinemia with multiple subclass deficiencies. Can you explain the connection between primary immune deficiency (PI) and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance and (MGUS) mast cell activation syndrome (MCAS)?

**Abbie:** According to Roger Kobayashi, MD, an allergy and immunology specialist in Omaha, Neb., there appears to be a relationship between PI and MGUS. Patients with MGUS may have immunodeficiency and recurrent infections, so these diseases may represent a spectrum or continuum of immune dysregulation.

Additionally, Dr. Kobayashi said that for 30 years, researchers have routinely looked for abnormal serum proteins (serum protein electrophoresis) in PI patients and found a dozen or so who also presented with MGUS. An oncologist followed those patients in case they developed multiple myeloma (MM) or a lymphoproliferative disorder (cancer), several of whom developed MM or another cancer. Dr. Kobayashi recommends at least yearly screening with serum protein electrophoresis for gammapathies in patients with common variable immune deficiency, hyper IgM syndromes, x-linked gammaglobulinemia and other antibody deficiencies. Similarly, if patients have MGUS, they should see an oncologist for a workup at least once a year.

There also appears to be an association between PI and MCAS, which Dr. Kobayashi says is unsurprising since immune dysregulation may be the underlying cause. Just like autoimmunity is commonly associated with PI, mast cells, which are a major component of the immune system, may be abnormally affected.

More information about the relationship between PI and MGUS/MCAS can be found by reading these articles:

- www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(17)31957-7/fulltext
- pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34747107
- www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2014.00257/full
- pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21643891

**Is There a Difference in the Source Plasma in Gammaked and Gamunex-C?**

On page 11 of the December-January 2023 issue of *IG Living* magazine, Leslie Vaughan, RPh, CSP, IgCP, chief operations officer at Nufactor, a specialty infusion company, says the only difference between the immune globulin (IG) products Gammaked and Gamunex-C “is the source plasma.” I Googled this because I thought plasma only came from one source, and everything I find says it comes from the same source. Can you clarify?

**Abbie:** According to Vaughan, the only difference between Gammaked and Gamunex-C is where the manufacturer obtains (sources) its plasma. Both Kedrion and Grifols operate their own plasma collection centers. Gammaked is manufactured with plasma collected by Kedrion at its collection centers, and Gamunex-C is manufactured with plasma collected by Grifols at its collection centers. As per U.S. Food and Drug Administration requirements, both use plasma sourced in the U.S. to manufacture IG sold in the U.S. Additionally, both products are manufactured in a Grifols facility using the same manufacturing process.

**Have a question?** Email us at editor@IGLiving.com. Your information will remain confidential unless permission is given.

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