

Therapeutic potential of NAD⁺ Boosters in Rheumatoid Arthritis

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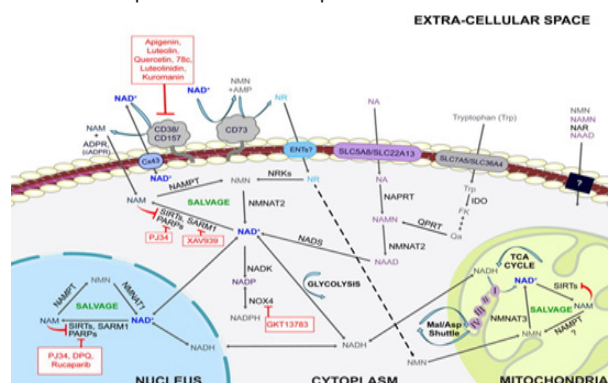


Abstract

NAD⁺ is an important cofactor/second messenger for key cellular processes whose modulation might have a therapeutic role in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA).

Aims: 1- To study the NAD⁺ metabolism in RA patients. 2- To analyze the effect of NAD⁺ boosters in leukocytes from active RA patients. Plasma and PBMCs were purified from 100 RA patients and 50 healthy donors (HDs). NAD⁺ levels were determined by using the NAD⁺/NADH-Glo Assay. NAD⁺-consuming genes expression were analyzed by RT-PCR. In parallel, PBMCs from six HDs and six active RA patients were treated ex vivo with 1 mM of NAD⁺ boosters including nicotinamide (NAM), nicotinamide riboside (NR), and nicotinamide mononucleotide (NMN). After 24 hours, intracellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels (DFCHDA) and the percentage of apoptotic PBMCs (annexin V/PI) were assessed by flow cytometry. Finally, a panel of pro-inflammatory genes were evaluated by RT-PCR. NAD⁺ levels were significantly reduced in plasma of RA patients compared with HDs and directly related to disease activity. Accordingly, the expression levels of genes involved in the consumption of NAD⁺ such as SIRT-1, CD38 and PARP-1 were found up-regulated in RA PBMCs. PBMCs isolated from RA patients showed an increased oxidative, apoptotic and proinflammatory status compared with HDs. The in vitro treatments with NAD⁺ boosters significantly increased the NAD⁺ levels and promoted a deep reduction of intracellular ROS, the percentage of apoptotic cells and the expression levels of key inflammatory mediators, such as IL-6, IL-8, IL-1b, TNF- α , CCL2, IL-23, and STAT-3.

Conclusions: 1. NAD⁺ metabolism is altered in RA, involving both, reduced NAD⁺ levels and increased expression of NAD⁺-consuming genes. 2. NAD⁺ boosters reduced the oxidative, apoptotic and inflammatory profile of RA leukocytes through the parallel increase of intracellular NAD⁺ levels. Thus, NAD⁺ boosters might be considered novel therapeutic tools for RA patients.



Biography

Dr Pérez Sánchez has a PhD in biomedicine at the University of Cordoba (UCO), Spain and has two Masters. Currently, he holds a post-doctoral position at IMIBIC and is the co-director and CSO of the Start-up Shortcut Scientific based in Cambridge. He has an H-index of 14, 618 cites and 35 peer-reviewed publications in the highest impact journals in the field. He is the main or last author in 22 of these publications. He collaborates with national and international groups as a result of different research stages during his PhD and postdoc training in centres such as Lupus Unit Research of London (UK, 6 months), and Department of Medicine at the Univ. of Cambridge, Smith Lab (UK, 24 months). He has authored 5 patents related to genomic biomarkers of autoimmune diseases and has participated as a member of several Scientific Societies, Evaluator panels and Reviewer boards.

Publications

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5. De la Rosa IA, Perez-Sanchez C, et al. Haematologica. 2020. Impaired microRNA processing in neutrophils from rheumatoid arthritis patients confers their pathogenic profile. Modulation by biological therapies