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Title: The JAK3 inhibitor CP-690550 is a potent anti-fibrosis agent in a murine model of pulmonary fibrosis induced by bleomycin

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Body: Rationale: We previously suggested that JAK3, a cytoplasmic tyrosine kinase involved in receptor signaling for cytokines storm, is a molecular determinant in exacerbated innate immune inflammation. A selective JAK3 inhibitor can alleviate immunopathologic injury. Does it have a potential for treating the lung fibrosis associated with autoimmunity? In the present study, CP-690550, a novel inhibitor of JAK3, was subjected to examination of its effects on lung fibrosis in a murine model of Bleomycin(BLM)-induced pulmonary inflammation. Methods&Results: Flow cytometry for typing bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BAL) cells showed much higher level of T cells containing high frequencies of CD3+CD8+ and NKT+ cells in the BLM-challenged mice than control, but no significant changes were detected in the mice with CP-690550 treatment(15 mg/kg/d for two weeks) or JAK3^{-/-} mice where pathology displayed attenuation of the lung fibrosis, corresponding to significantly increased survival rates(38.5% of BLM-challenged mice v.s.100% of the mice treated with CP-690550 or 84.6% of JAK3^{-/-} mice following BLM challenge, P<0.01).Cytokines profiling by liquid-Chip demonstrated significantly elevated levels of IP-10, IFN- γ and reduced TGF- β 1 secretion following BLM challenge in the lung homogenates and blood of the JAK3^{-/-} or reduction of TGF- β 1 in the blood of JAK3^{+/+} mice with CP-690550 treatment, compared to the JAK3^{+/+} mice. Conclusion: These results suggest that CP-690550 treatment has the capacity to counter immune inflammation-associated lung fibrosis through modulation of cytotoxic T cells-mediated autoimmune inflammation as well as inhibition of production of fibrotic cytokines.