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Title: Granulocytic myeloid-derived-supressor cells (GrMDSCs) in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients

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Body: COPD increases the risk of developing lung cancer (LC). Development of LC may be connected not only with smoking, but also with genetic predisposition and chronic inflammation. GrMDSCs expand in cancer, inflammation and infection. GrMDSCs activation increases immunosuppressive factors expression, that may activate epithelial cells proliferation and support their migration. These processes may lead to neoplastic transformation in course of COPD. Aim of the study: assessment of GrMDSCs in COPD patients blood and BAL (bronchoalveolar lavage) and correlation with clinical parameters. 18 COPD patients were included to cross-sectional study. Immunophenotyping of blood and BAL cells was performed using CD11b, CD33, Lin1, HLA-DR, CD45 (FACSCanto cytometer). PFTs (pulmonary function tests) and BODE index were performed. Results: We indicated the presence of GrMDSCs in COPD patients blood (Mean 2.75%, SD 1.625, Min. 0.31, Max. 5.23) and BAL (Mean 0.21%, SD 0.459, Min. 0.0, Max. 1.71). We observed correlation between GrMDSCs[%] and age [yr] (rs,0,68, p 0,0099) GOLD stage (rs,0,7, p 0,0080), RV[%] (rs,0,64, p 0,0182), RV/TLC (rs,0,74, p 0,0036) in BAL and between GrMDSCs[%] and age[yr] (rs,-0,63, p 0,0223), paO₂[mmHg] (rs,0,57, p 0,0398), FVC[%] (rs,0,66, p 0,0142) in blood. No correlation between GrMDSCs[%] and other PFT parameters (FEV₁, TLC, SaO₂, paCO₂, DLCO), and BODE index was observed. Conclusion: Our findings confirm the presence of GrMDSCs in systemic and local inflammatory process in COPD. Further studies are needed to explain their role in neoplastic transformation in course of COPD.