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NETOSIS BIOMARKERS LEVELS IN HIGH-GRADE SEROUS OVARIAN CANCER PATIENTS' BIOFLUIDS: POTENTIAL ROLE IN DISEASE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

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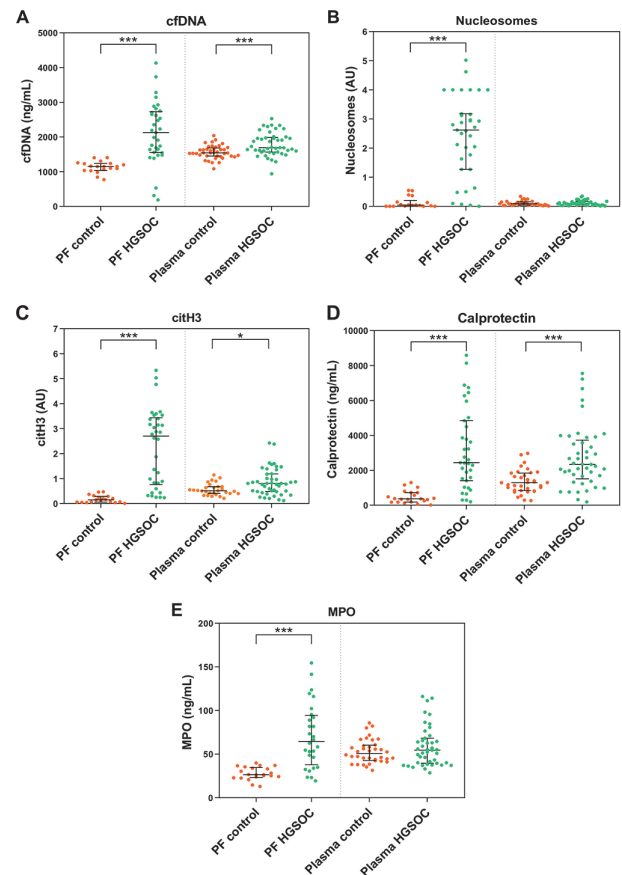
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Introduction/Background High-grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC) is the most lethal gynecological malignancy, partially due to its spread through the peritoneal cavity. Neutrophils are involved in cancer progression by neutrophil extracellular traps formation (NETosis). NETosis has been proposed as a pre-requisite for the establishment of omental metastases in early stages HGSOC. However, its role in advanced stages remains unknown. Therefore, we aimed to characterize a NETosis biomarker profile in biofluids from patients with advanced HGSOC.

Methodology Five biomarkers of NETosis were quantified in plasma and paired peritoneal fluid (PF) samples of 45 patients and 40 control women: cell-free DNA (cfDNA), nucleosomes, citrullinated histone 3 (citH3), calprotectin and myeloperoxidase with specific kits. DNaseI activity was measured with the single radial enzyme-diffusion assay. A NETosis score was created to consider the joint behavior of NETosis biomarkers levels in PF.

Results Compared to control women, HGSOC patients presented a higher concentration of cfDNA, citH3 and calprotectin in plasma, and of all NETosis biomarkers in PF (figure 1). DNaseI was not responsible for the cfDNA increase. These biomarkers showed a strong ability to differentiate both groups, mainly in PF. Interestingly, neoadjuvant treatment (NT) seemed to reduce NETosis biomarkers mainly systemically (plasma) compared to the tumor environment (PF). Our NETosis score allowed to clearly differentiate HGSOC from control women employing a cut-off value of 23% (NETosis score >23 corresponds to HGSOC patients).

Conclusion NETosis biomarkers are present in the tumor environment of advanced HGSOC patients, which might contribute to the progression of HGSOC in advanced stages. Plasma cfDNA and calprotectin could represent low-invasive surrogate biomarkers for HGSOC. NT modifies NETosis biomarkers mainly at the systemic level, but its effect is rather limited in the tumor environment. We have developed a NETosis score that allows the discrimination of HGSOC patients from controls.



Abstract #375 Figure 1 NETosis biomarkers in peritoneal fluid (PF) and plasma samples of patients with high-grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC) (n=35 and n=45, respectively) and control women (n=21 and n=40, respectively). (A) cell-free DNA (cfDNA). (B) Nucleosomes. (C) citrullinated histone 3 (citH3). (D) Calprotectin. (E) Myeloperoxidase (MPO). AU, arbitrary units. *** p<0.001; * p<0.05; Mann-Whitney U test.

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