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The Plasma Preincubation with Papain Before the Assay Suggests that a Gell and Coombs Type II Reaction is Been Demonstrated by the Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test

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Abbreviations: LA: Leukocyte Adherence; LAR: Leukocyte Adherence Ratio; LAI: Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition; LAIT: Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test; LMI test: Leukocyte Migration Inhibition test

ABSTRACT

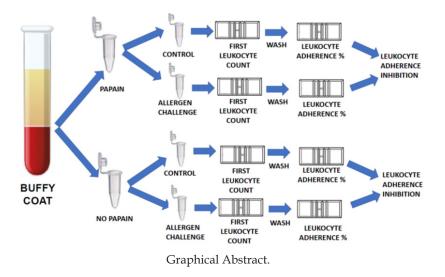
Background: The Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test (LAIT) is an *ex vivo* challenge test used to testimony specific immunoreactivity. Despite numerous studies had been performed to elucidate the interactions involved in the assay, there are yet several questions about its mechanisms and how to translate its results into the medical practice.

Objectives: To perform an experiment with an antibody disassembler: the papain, to demonstrate the participation of specific antibodies in the reconnaissance phase of the assay performed with protein antigens.

Methods: Paired side-by-side *ex vivo* allergen-specific challenges monitored by the LAIT, were performed with the plasma of allergic patients, preincubated (or not) with papain.

Results: The mean of the differences (26.66%) of the two arms was considered significative by the paired t-test (p-value < 0.05).

Conclusion: Our results suggests that the leukocyte adherence inhibition phenomenon and its inhibition is possibly mediated by an interaction of cells and specific antibodies and deserves further studies as an *ex vivo* challenge test tool for research of Gell & Coombs type II hypersensitivity reactions.



Introduction

Leukocytes are immune cells that play a key role in vertebrate physiology. It is their capacity of adherence and mobilization that protects the host providing inflammation, expelling of foreign bodies and killing of microorganisms in order to allow cicatrization of injured tissues [1]. Unfortunately, their disfunction, whether by hyperactivity or inactivity, also produces diseases [2]. This is easy to understand because allergic responses are amplified cascade inflammatory reactions that rely on multiples sequential steps, as well on the control of several modulators [3]. To mobilize defenses, leukocytes depend on cytokines, antibodies, surface receptors and adhesion molecules [4]. Adhesion molecules are cytokineregulated glycoproteins expressed on the surface of leukocytes that mediate the adhesion of immune cells to foreign bodies and regulate the recruitment and migration of circulating cells through compromised tissues towards the inflamed site [5-7]. The inhibition of the leukocyte capability of migration induced by specific antigens (ex vivo challenges) was first studied by Boyden, who designed a migration chamber specially to perform the Leukocyte Migration Inhibition Test (LMI test) [8]. Within the same perspective, to study the inhibition of leukocyte adherence, following ex vivo challenges with specific antigens, Halliday designed the Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test (LAIT) [9]. Leukocyte's migration and adhesion are intimately related since the inhibition of adhesion also paralysis migration [10]. This interrelationship explains the equivalence that correlates the immunoassays comparing the inhibition of migration with the inhibition of adhesion of leukocytes [11].

Live and rest leukocytes in physiologic conditions have the natural capacity to adhere to glass, property easily recognized by an artisanal immunoassay done with help of a glass surface of a tube and/or a hemocytometer chamber, an optical microscope and a laboratory water bath [12]. This general capacity, however, is lost when the leukocytes are functionally engaged with a particular antigen [13]. When activated in the presence of a specific antigen, leukocytes release soluble factors (cytokines) that recruit nearby leukocytes abolishing their natural capacity of glass adherence and migration [14]. The quantification of the antigen-specific inhibition of leukocyte adherence and/or migration are/is evaluated by the comparison of an antigen-challenged assay with a concomitant control assay done with the unchallenged plasma [15]. Since several mechanisms have been implied as participants of these phenomena, the failure to migrate and/or to adhere to glass seems to be just the final indicator of the antigen-specific leukocyte activation characterized by the cytokines liberation or, to describe with a single word: the immunoreactivity [16-19].

After the initial studies of Halliday and co-works, several scientists evaluated the *ex vivo* challenges monitored by the LAIT and/or the LMI test to demonstrated immunoreactivity to specific antigens, in order to understand the role of these antigens in health

and disease [20-25]. The studies were also directed to identify the specific cytokines involved in the inhibition of the adherence/ migration phenomena, as well their analytical interferents and pharmacological inhibitors [26-28]. But the liberation of cytokines is just the consequent response of the reconnaissance of the specific antigen. We, particularly, were intrigued to respond the question: "Is this cell-mediated phenomenon initiated by specific antibodies?" Whatsoever, the specificity and the prompt response to respond to challenging antigens suggests that an adaptive immune mechanism is involved with the presence of free and/ or membrane-bound specific antibodies. As we observed, it's enough just 30 minutes in contact with the specific antigen at an agitation device at physiologic temperature to generate the specific inhibition of the leukocyte adherence and/or the migration [29]. The involvement of immune cells and antibodies in the context of a hypersensitivity disease characterizes the general definition of a type II Gell and Coombs' reaction. The so-called type II Gell and Coombs' hypersensitivity reactions includes a wide variety of immune mechanisms that possess in common the participation of immune cells and antibodies such as IgG and/or IgM [30].

Usually the Gell and Coombs' type I reaction is defined by the interaction of IgE and mast cells, but now a days we known that IgE can also binds and interacts with circulant immune cells, such as neutrophils, lymphocytes, monocytes, basophils and eosinophils and, at least conceptually, is able to participate of type II reactions [31-35]. Despite the original description of Gell and Coombs had generally named the type II reaction as "cytotoxic", theirs subsequent textbook explanation recognized that some of these reactions were not necessarily deleterious to tissue, but could instead have a stimulatory effect inducing immune modulation or a blast transformation [30]. For a long time, the type II reaction was called "Antibody-Dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity" (ADCC), however, modern classification of hypersensitivity reactions divides type II reactions between type IIa (Antibody-mediated cytotoxic reactions) and type IIb (Antibody-mediated cellstimulating reactions) [36]. The knowledge of the participation of antibodies in the reconnaissance phase of the cell mediated reactions demonstrated by LAIT would not define necessarily if the subsequent effector response will develop a type IIa or type IIb immune reaction, because the LAIT only evaluates the three initial steps of the reaction to specific antigens, i.e.: reconnaissance, cytokine liberation and cellular activation. To clarify this, other immunoassays are required to complete the puzzle, such as, for example, the *in vivo* skin and provocation tests, the in vitro research of precipitins, the evaluation of the activity of complement system and the dosage of immune complexes and specific antibodies. Anyway, to evaluate the participation of antibodies in the chain of reactions that result in the abolition of leukocyte adherence observed in the ex vivo challenge tests monitored by LAIT, we

designed a very simple experiment with a very-well studied antibody disassembler: the papain. Papain, also known as papaya proteinase, I, is a cysteine protease (EC 3.4.22.2) obtained from the fresh latex of unripe fruits of Carica papaya and/or Vasconcellea cundinamarcensis [37]. Papain promotes the endolytic hydrolysis of proteins with broad specificity for peptide bonds, especially amino acids bearing a large hydrophobic side chain at the second position at the cleavage site [38]. Papain acts by a catalytic dyad mechanism involving a nucleophilic cysteine thiol [39].

Since the early fifties, when Nobel laureated scientists, such as Dr. Linus Pauling were yet struggling to comprehend the biochemical structure of polypeptide chains and proteins, it was already known, mainly by Porter's experiments, that the hydrolysis of antibodies by papain results not only in the inactivity of the antibody, but produced also an inhibitory factor that competes by their specific antigen with the correlated untreated antibodies [40-42]. This antibody-inhibitory fraction, obtained by hydrolysis of human immunoglobulins by means of papain, was studied independently by several investigators and referred by diverse names until 1964 when a committee of the WHO recommended the use of the nomenclature: Antigen-Binding Fragment (Fab) to refer to the inhibitory fragments produced by papain [43,44]. Papain cleaves the upper hinge of antibodies, producing three fragments: two 50 KDa Fab fragments and one 50 KDa crystallizable fragment (Fc), losing its capacity of agglutination, precipitation, opsonization and lysis [45-47].

To evaluate the possibility that the initial antigen-specific reconnaissance phenomena observed in the *ex vivo* challenge of the LAIT is mediated by antibodies, we designed a study comparing, side-by-side, the performance of LAIT with the paired same samples of plasma preincubated (or not) with papain before the antigen-specific *ex vivo* challenge test. The hypothesis was that a partial or total loss of the capacity to inhibit the leukocyte adherence produced by specific antigen, observed after the papain treatment, suggests that the initial reconnaissance phenomenon is mediated by specific free or cell-bounded antibodies and/or the production of autologous Fab fragments able to compete by the antigen's epitopes.

Study Design and Methods

After receiving institutional review board approval, 11 consecutives outpatients with clinical symptoms of allergy, diagnosed by allergy-skin tests as previously described, to diversified antigens, were invited, with informed consent formularies, according with the International Committee of Medical Journals Editors requirements of privacy and the principles of Helsinki, to voluntarily provide blood samples to perform 53 *ex vivo* challenge tests with food, microbial and airborne allergens [48]. The first technical obstacle to design such experiment is that

the LAIT must be performed with alive cells and so, we dispose of a limited amount of time to incubate the plasma with papain. Porter incubated papain and immunoglobulins during 16 hours at 37 °C, but by this time the plasma immune cells certainly are dead, turning impossible the LAIT [49]. However, Stockell and Smith studying the kinetics of papain action, stated, as quoted, that solutions of papain "which gave maximal enzyme activation were incubated for 30 minutes at 38 °C under various conditions of pH and in various organic solvents" [50]. So, as a proof of concept, we compared, side by side, the degradation of serum and plasma samples submitted to papain (or not) at 37 °C and 90 °C during 30 minutes by means of a Coomassie[®] Blue stained 15% resolving sodium-dodecyl sulfate acrylamide electrophoresis gel (SDS-PAGE) using a Mini Protean Tetra Cell apparatus (Bio-Rad, CA, USA) [51]. Aliquots of 5 µL of the plasma and serum samples treated (or not) with papain at 37 °C and 90 °C were applied to each lane. A 10-180 KDa molecular mass thermo scientific prestained protein ladder (PageRulerTM, Thermo Fisher, MA, USA) was used to identify approximate molecular weights. After electrophoresis the gel was stained with Thermo Fisher Coomassie® Blue to identify the protein distribution. All relevant and mandatory laboratory health and safety measures have been complied in the complete course of the experiments.

Certified and purified papain was purchased from Farma Vida Farmácia EPP (Americana - SP - Brazil). Ovalbumin was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Brasil Ltda EPP (Cotia - SP -Brazil). Food antigens for the cutaneous and ex vivo challenge tests were bought at a local marketplace, extracted and purified at our laboratory. Bacterial and house dust mite antigens were purchased from R.V. Manipulações Especiais Ltda (São Paulo - SP - Brazil). Transglutaminase was gently provided by Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (Limeira - SP - Brazil) to perform bovine beta-lactoglobulin (Bos D 5) polymerization, as previously described [29]. Plasma samples were collected in heparinized collection tubes. The duplicated plasma samples (100µL) were incubated (or not) during 30 minutes with papain (10µL, 1 mg/mL, 37 °C) before the ex vivo challenge with the specific antigen. The ex vivo challenge tests were performed as described previously, with minor alterations to fit the experiment with papain preincubation [29]. The plasma with high leukocyte content (buffy coat) was collected from the heparinized tube after one hour of sedimentation at 37 °C water bath (neither centrifugation, ficoll or dextran were employed) with a squeezable plastic Pasteur pipette and allocated into 1 mL polypropylene Eppendorf tubes kept under gentle agitation (200 rpm at 37 °C) with (or without, as used as control) antigen extract $(10\mu L \text{ of a solution with } 1mg/mL)$. The plasma sample was kept under gentle agitation for 30 minutes at 37 °C. After incubation, the plasma was allocated into a standard Neubauer hemocytometer counting chamber with a plain, non-metallic glass surface and left to stand for 2 hours at 37 °C in the humidified atmosphere of the covered water bath to allow leukocytes to adhere to the glass. Next,

leukocytes were counted, and the coverslip was gently removed, followed by washing of the chamber by immersion in a beaker with PBS at 37 °C. A drop of PBS was subsequently added to the hemocytometer chamber, and a clean coverslip was placed over it. The remaining cells were counted in the same squares examined previously. The percentage of Leukocyte Adherence (LA) of each assay was estimated as: (the number of leukocytes observed on the hemocytometry chamber after washing / the number of leukocytes observed on the hemocytometry chamber before washing) x 100%. The Leukocyte Adherence Ratio (LAR) was estimated based on the ratio between the LA from the antigen-specific challenged groups and the LA from the unchallenged control group: LAR = LA of challenged sample / LA of unchallenged control sample) x 100%. To further calculated the Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition (LAI) it is enough to subtract the LAR from 100 (%).

Statistical Analyses

Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism software (version 5.0; GraphPad Software, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA). The data were reported as arithmetic means with 95% confidence intervals (CI) and standard deviations (SD). Differences in the means of matched samples were assessed by paired t-tests. For all analyses, a p-value of less than 0.05 was considered significant. A whiskers-and-box plot graph was generated by the software.

Results

The Coomassie[®] Blue stained SDS-gel electroblotted with fresh

plasma; plasma incubated at 37 °C; plasma incubated with papain at 37 °C; plasma incubated with papain at 90 °C; fresh serum; serum incubated with papain at 37 °C and serum incubated with papain at 90 °C, is displayed at Figure 1. It shows a similar papaindisassembling of proteins of serum and plasma either at 37 °C as well at 90 °C. The Leukocyte Adherence Ratio (LAR %) and Leukocyte adherence Inhibition (LAI %) of 53 ex vivo allergen challenge tests monitored by the Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test of paired plasma pre-incubated (or not) with papain are displayed at Table 1. The mean of the LAR estimated among the 53 tests in the arm group not submitted to papain was 25.51 % (LAI = 74.49 %). The mean of the LAR estimated among the 53 participants in the assays of the arm group submitted to papain was 52,17 % (LAI = 47.83 %). The Box and whiskers plot graph comparing the LAR of the same paired plasma samples submitted (or not) to a preincubation with papain are displayed at Figure 2. The Prism GraphPad paired t test analysis between LAR (%) of the same paired plasma samples submitted (or not) to a preincubation with papain are displayed at Appendix 1. The mean of the differences (26.66%) between the two arms was considered significative by the paired t-test (p-value < 0.05). Among the 53 analyzed ex vivo challenges, 30 (56.6%) presented full adherence inhibition (LAI = 100%) when processed without papain digestion. In this particular subgroup, 24 (80%) presented leukocyte adherence similar to the unchallenged control plasma when the serum was submitted to papain, demonstrating that the papain completely abolished the mechanism of the inhibition of the adherence.

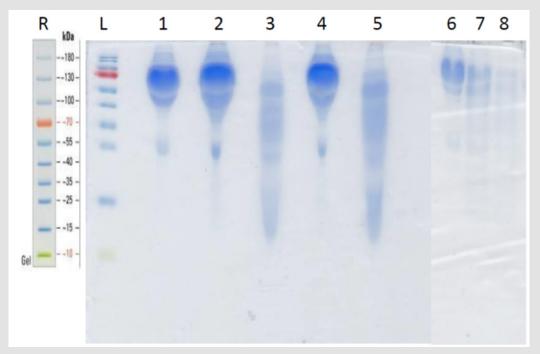


Figure 1: Coomassie® blue stained SDS-PAGE.

R = Thermo Fisher 10 - 180 KDa molecular weight reference. L = prestained Page RulerTM ladder lane; 1 = fresh unmodified plasma; 2 = plasma incubated at 37 °C for 30 minutes; 3 = plasma incubated with papain at 37 °C for 30 minutes; 4 = plasma incubated at 90 °C for 30 minutes; 5 = plasma incubated with papain at 90 °C for 30 minutes; 6 = fresh serum; 7 = serum incubated with papain at 37 °C for 30 minutes; 8 = serum incubated with papain at 90 °C for 30 minutes.

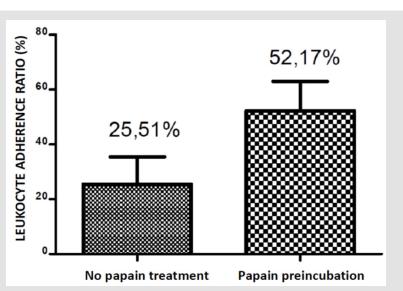


Figure 2: Box-and-whiskers plot graph comparing the adherence percentage of the same paired plasma samples submitted (or not) to a preincubation with papain.

Table 1: Leukocyte Adherence Ratio (%) and Leukocyte adherence Inhibition (%) of 53 ex vivo allergen challenge tests monitored by
the Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test of paired plasma pre-incubated (or not) with papain.

Patient	Antigen	LAR (%)	LAI (%)	LAR (%) (papain)	LAI (%) (papain)
RL	Tuna meat (Tuna thunnini)	0	100	81	19
RL	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	52	58
RL	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	93	7
RL	Wheat (Triticum aestivum)	0	100	88	12
RL	Malagueta pepper	0	100	74	26
VHS	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	81	19
VHS	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	54	46
VHS	Casein (Bos d 8)	0	100	26	74
VHS	Soybean (Glycine max)	0	100	34	66
PA	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	98	2
PA	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	86	14
PA	Aspergillus fumigatus	0	100	81	19
PA	Staphylococcus Toxoid	0	100	95	5
PA	Staphylococcus aureus	0	100	88	12
PA	Ovalbumin (Gallus domesticus)	96	4	73	27
PA	Gluten (Triticum aestivum)	81	19	72	28
YP	Dermatophagoides. Pteronyssinus	68	32	98	2
YP	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	37	63	90	10
YP	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	98	2
YP	Bovine meat (Bos domesticus)	0	100	84	16
LC	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	72	18	100	0
LC	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	33	67	100	0
LC	Redspottedshrimp (Penaeus brasiliensis)	88	12	100	0
LC	Ovalbumin (Gallus domesticus)	0	100	100	0
LC	Dermatophagoides. pteronyssinus	0	100	100	0
MB	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	100	0	0	100
MB	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	0	100

MB	Staphylococcus epidermidis	76	24	6	94
MB	Staphylococcus Toxoid	19	81	0	100
MB	Dermatophagoides. pteronyssinus	0	100	88	22
MB	Latex (Hevea brasiliensis)	84	16	98	2
KCC	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	94	6	0	100
KCC	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	32	68	0	100
KCC	Dermatophagoides. pteronyssinus	23	77	0	100
KCC	Latex (Hevea brasiliensis)	0	100	0	100
FP	Dermatophagoides. pteronyssinus	19	81	34	66
FP	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	26	74
FP	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	26	74	63	47
FP	Casein (Bos d 8)	0	100	60	40
FP	Soybean (Glycine max)	84	16	67	43
APR	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	6	94
APR	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	61	39
APR	Aspergillus fumigatus	83	17	40	60
APR	Dermatophagoides. pteronyssinus	90	10	51	49
MEF	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	10	90	0	100
MEF	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	64	36	0	100
MEF	Dermatophagoides. pteronyssinus	0	100	0	100
MEF	Chicken meat (Gallus domesticus)	0	100	0	100
MEF	Pork meat (Sus domesticus)	73	27	0	100
MEF	Latex (Hevea brasiliensis)	0	100	0	100
MEF	Cacao bean (Theobroma cacao)	0	100	0	100
RDF	Bovine betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	57	43
RDF	Polymerized betalactoglobulin (Bos d 5)	0	100	62	38

Discussion

The complexity of the Gell and Coombs type II reactions is overwhelming. Despite the fully range of cytokines that are secreted in the plasma are not yet described, there are a myriad of membrane cells receptors that interact among them triggering intra-cellular and inter-cellular responses that result in the immune reaction. The LAIT is an ex vivo challenge test that relies on all this complexity but shows just the final result of the equation. The promptness of the response is highly suggestive that an adaptative antibody-mediated reaction orchestrates the cellular engagement. Here we describe a simple experiment, limited by the resources of our laboratory, with an antibody disassembler added to this complex system. Another limitation of the design of the study is that papain is also a foreign protein that may induce immune or allergic reactions and to work as an interferent of the ex vivo challenge test by itself, what may explain the cases where the leukocyte adherence decreased instead of increase [52]. So, the results mainly suggest, but do not necessarily prove, the participation of antibodies in this process. The experiment does not necessarily distinguish the cleavage of free antibodies from a possible cleavage of the membrane-bound antibodies, neither the proteolytic papain disassembling of another occasional unrecognized intermediate of the adherence-inhibition

phenomena. A candidate for this disassembling is the IgG1+ memory B cells that are currently being studied as participant of food allergic reactions [53,54]. Memory B lymphocytes bearing antigenspecific antibodies on membrane receptors could theoretically provide rapid cytokine response to promote paracrine inhibition of glass adherence that could, by your turn, be blocked by papain disassembling and/or antigen-specific Fab competition [55]. We do not know the real extension of the antibody disassembling and we do not know the extension of the activity of the inhibitory Fab fragments furnished to the challenge chamber. Fab fragments produced by papain compete with the same antigen's epitopes to which membrane receptors and antibodies bound, what could, theoretically result in the abolishing of the inhibitory effect on the cellular adherence. We also do not exclude an eventual interference with another occasional innate reconnaissance system, but the high efficiency in blocking the inhibition of the adherence suggests that this mechanism is been activated by antigen-specific adaptive immune response.

Another inevitable visualization of the experiment is the concept of "effector and blocking antibodies" [56]. Operationally we can classify the antibodies according with their main function in two categories: the blocking antibodies and the effector antibodies.

The effector antibody is an antibody with a functional and active Fc portion. It is by the Fc region that the antibody is able to bound to a cell receptor, activate it and occasionally initiates the complement cascade. These are mainly properties of antibodies of IgM, IgE and the IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 subclasses. Blocking antibodies are antibodies that bound to the antigens, but do not activate receptors cells or initiate the complement cascade, they predominantly block their epitopes, finishing the immune reaction. These are properties mainly of secretory IgA and IgG4 subclass [57,58]. In this experiment, the Fab fraction, theoretically acts as a blocking antibody since it possesses no Fc portion. The participation of allergen-specific IgG's subclasses and allergen-specific IgA antibodies in food allergy is not yet fully elucidated but their differential response on food allergic desensitization is currently under investigation [59].

Ours results also suggests that the ex vivo challenge LAIT is a functional model to demonstrate the presence of effector antibodies in the studied plasma. When the physicians quantify the presence of antibodies in the serum of the allergic patients to specific antigens (either IgE or unclassified IgG) there is no indication that these circulating antibodies will clinically act as effector or blocking antibodies. Even the so requested free-serum-IgE do not necessarily acts as an effector antibody when circulating by the serum. The effector IgE involved in allergic reactions, in reality, is not the free serum IgE, but the cell bounded IgE. At least theoretically, the free IgE may even act as a blocker antibody when trapping free allergens, competing with the real effectors: the cell-bounded IgE-receptors, the effective triggers of the Gell and Coombs' type I and type II hypersensitivity reactions. There are two kinds of membrane-bound receptors for IgE: the high affinity receptor FceRI, expressed on mast cells, neutrophils, basophils, monocytes and dendritic cells; and the low affinity receptor FceRII (CD23) expressed on B-cells, monocytes and dendritic cells [60]. Despite the free serum IgE correlates well with allergic disease, there are some allergic patients that present normal IgE serum levels at immunoassays. That is why it is actually proposed the measuring, by the employ of lactic acid on plasma, of the liberated cell bounded IgE as a tool to help physicians to diagnosis allergy [61]. This may happen when the allergy is produced by a non-IgEmediated mechanism, or even when the serum presence of non-IgE antibodies interferes with the IgE immunoassay, competing by the allergens' epitopes [62]. Finally, we must also consider the Gell and Coombs' type III hypersensitivity reaction that involves the bounding of free antibodies to circulating antigens that produces Complement-mediated reactions when larger immunocomplexes reach the tissues. This is one of the many "deserved-to-be-studied" mechanisms that could also possibly be "Complementing" the cellular phenomena observed on the LAIT positivity or, at least, on the regulation of the immune humoral activity by the Complement System [63]. We theorize that the ex vivo tests to detect Complement activation, theoretically, could be a valuable tool to achieve this

objective if performed in association with the LAIT [64]. Because papain is known to cleave not only immunoglobulins but also other proteins, we cannot conclude from our results that a Gell and Coombs type II reaction is been demonstrated by the Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test. However, our results suggests that the leukocyte adherence inhibition phenomenon is mediated by an interaction of cells and specific antibodies and deserves further studies as an *ex vivo* challenge test tool for diagnosis of Gell & Coombs type II hypersensitivity reactions.

Declaration of All Sources of Funding

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Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest

The authors have declared that they have no conflict of interest.

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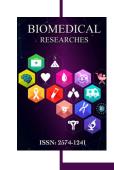
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