



## The 65th ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts

## POSTER ABSTRACTS

## 322.DISORDERS OF COAGULATION OR FIBRINOLYSIS: CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL

**Large Deletion in the Factor VIII Gene Is a Predictor of Immune Tolerance Induction Failure in People with Severe and Moderately-Severe Hemophilia a and High-Responding Inhibitors**

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**Introduction** Immune tolerance induction (ITI) is a therapeutic approach to eradicate inhibitors against factor VIII (FVIII) in people with inherited hemophilia A (PwHA). The success of ITI is highly variable, ranging from 60% to 80% across studies. Beyond inhibitor titers, other predictors of ITI outcome are unknown. Deleterious variants in FVIII gene (*F8*) are well established risk factors for alloantibodies development in PwHA, although few studies have investigated the role of *F8* variants on ITI outcome. Therefore we aimed to comprehensively analyze the association of *F8* pathogenic variants on ITI outcome in severe PwHA with high-responding inhibitors.

**Methods** We included severe (FVIII < 1 international units [IU]/dL) and moderately-severe (FVIII 1-2 IU/dL) unrelated PwHA and high-responding inhibitors who completed ITI from a large, admixed population of two well-characterized cohorts - the HEMFIL and the Brazilian Immune Tolerance (BrazIT) studies. We collected socio-demographic, clinical and laboratory data. ITI outcomes were defined according to previous definitions as failure, partial and total successes. Inversions of intron 1 and 22 (Inv22) were detected by polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and high-throughput sequencing approaches were used to unveil the additional *F8* variants. The association between *F8* pathogenic variants and ITI outcome was adjusted for inhibitor levels. To investigate whether *F8* variants associated with inhibitor development were also related to ITI outcome, variants were categorized as "high-risk", "intermediate-risk", and "low-risk" categories. These categories for inhibitor development were then compared with the outcomes of ITI (total and partial successes and failure) using data from this study.

**Results** We included 158 PwHA, median age 6.6 years at ITI start, 90.5% were severe (Table 1). Inv22 was the most prevalent variant (55.1%) (Table 1). In comparison with Inv22-1, the risk of ITI failure was about 9 times higher (adjusted odds ratio [adjOR] 9.29; 95% confidence interval [95% CI] 1.95-53.70) among carriers of large deletions (Table 2). Conversely, Inv22-2 was associated with favorable ITI outcome in a univariate analysis (OR 0.15; 0.01-0.84), and after adjustment (adjOR 0.32; 95% CI 0.02-1.96) (Table 2). *F8* deleterious variants sorted as high-risk and intermediate-risk according to a previously published classification on inhibitor development were associated with failure and successful outcomes, respectively.

**Conclusion** Our study showed that *F8* large deletions are independent predictors of ITI failure, and Inv22-2 is likely to be a predictor of successful ITI. We found a correspondence between variants classified as high-risk and intermediate-risk to inhibitor development with ITI failure and success, respectively. We suggest that *F8* genotyping should be considered before indication of ITI, as ITI outcome can vary according to individual variant burden.

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**TABLE 1** Characteristics of the study population according to immune tolerance induction outcome.

Patient and hemophilia A characteristics	ITI outcome (n = 158)		p-value
	Success* (n = 108)	Failure (n = 50)	
<b>Ethnicity, n (%)</b>			
Black	11 (10.1)	1 (2.0)	0.062
Pardo	37 (34.3)	25 (50.0)	
White	60 (55.6)	24 (48.0)	
<b>Hemophilia A diagnosis</b>			
Age, in years, median (IQR)	0.79 (0.44-1.25)	0.9 (0.6-1.1)	0.400
<b>FVIII activity, in IU/dL, n (%)</b>			
< 1	96 (88.8)	47 (94.0)	0.315
1-2	12 (11.2)	3 (6.0)	
<b>F8 variant type, n (%)</b>			
Intron 22 inversion	69 (63.9)	18 (36.0)	0.001
<i>Inv22-1</i>	50 (72.5)	17 (94.4)	0.147
<i>Inv22-2</i>	19 (27.5)	1 (5.6)	0.024
Nonsense	13 (12.0)	9 (18.0)	0.316
Small insertion/deletion	10 (9.3)	9 (18.0)	0.122
<i>Poly-A run†</i>	3 (30.0)	3 (33.3)	0.189
Large deletion	3 (2.8)	10 (20.0)	0.002
<i>Multiple exons/UTR</i>	1 (33.3)	10 (100.0)	0.002
Missense	5 (4.6)	2 (4.0)	0.858
Splice site	5 (4.6)	1 (2.0)	0.434
<i>Conserved nucleotide‡</i>	5 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	0.434
Intron 1 inversion	3 (2.8)	1 (2.0)	0.760
<b>Inhibitor characteristics</b>			
Age at inhibitor diagnosis, in years, median (IQR)	2 (1-7)	4 (2-8)	0.130
Age at ITI start, in years, median (IQR)	6 (2-18)	7 (2-19)	0.600
Interval between diagnosis of hemophilia A and inhibitor development, in years, median (IQR)	1.2 (0.6-4.8)	2.8 (0.5-6.1)	0.700
Historic inhibitor peak, in BU/mL, median (IQR)	30 (12.0-60.0)	81.0 (37.0-442.0)	<0.001
Inhibitor titer immediately before ITI, in BU/mL, median (IQR)	4.0 (2.0-9.0)	13.2 (5.7-57.0)	<0.001
Inhibitor peak during ITI, in BU/mL, median (IQR)	12.0 (4.0-46.0)	170.0 (58.0-666.0)	<0.001
ITI duration, in years, median (IQR)	2.3 (1.6-3.0)	3.1 (2.6-3.6)	<0.001

\* Success represents the sum of total and partial successes.  
 † Poly-A run was defined as at least 6 adenines in a row.  
 ‡ Conserved splice site was defined as those affecting the +1, +2, -1, or -2 nucleotide position at a splice site.  
 BU, Bethesda Units; F8, factor VIII gene; FVIII, factor VIII; IQR, interquartile range; ITI, immune tolerance induction; IU, International Units; UTR, untranslated region.

**TABLE 2** Odds ratios for the association of F8 variants and immune tolerance induction outcome.

F8 variant, n (%)	ITI outcome (n = 158)		OR (95% CI)	
	Success* (n = 108)	Failure (n = 50)	Crude	Adjusted†
Intron 22 inversion	69 (63.9)	18 (36.0)		
<i>Inv22-1</i>	50 (72.5)	17 (94.4)	1.00 (Reference)	1.00 (Reference)
<i>Inv22-2</i>	19 (27.5)	1 (5.6)	0.15 (0.01-0.84)	0.32 (0.02-1.96)
Large deletion	3 (2.8)	10 (20.0)	9.80 (2.65-47.7)	9.29 (1.95-53.7)

\* Success represents the sum of total and partial successes.  
 † Adjusted for inhibitor pre-ITI titre, historic inhibitor peak titre, and inhibitor titre peak during ITI.  
 CI, confidence interval; F8, factor VIII gene; ITI, immune tolerance induction; OR, odds ratio.

**Figure 1**

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