

## EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES PROFILES IN PATIENTS WITH PORTO-SINUSOIDAL VASCULAR DISEASE.

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**Background and aims:** Porto-sinusoidal vascular disorder (PSVD) has recently been proposed to delineate a group of hepatic vascular diseases characterized by lesions involving the portal venules and sinusoids, irrespective of the presence/absence of portal hypertension. Although data is still limited, several hypotheses and emerging evidence suggest that extracellular vesicles (EVs) might exert a functional role in the pathogenesis of PSVD. The analysis of EVs in PSVD may unveil disease-specific alterations in intercellular communication, contributing to understand the prothrombotic mechanisms and to discover novel biomarkers for diagnosis and prognosis. The study aims: i) to compare plasma-derived EVs in PSVD patients vs. healthy controls by flow cytometry; ii) to evaluate their potential involvement in disease progression.

**Methods:** Twenty-nine PSVD patients (median age 58 yrs; 20 males, 9 females) were included and compared with 9 (4 males and 5 females) aged matched ( $\pm 3$  yrs) healthy controls. Large extracellular vesicles (L-EVs) were isolated from platelet-poor plasma by centrifugation at 14,000 g for 30 min at 4 °C, immunolabeled with calcein-AM, annexin V, CD41, CD62P, CD45, CD14, CD62E, anti-human-tissue factor (TF), CD105 and CD147. For EV size calibration, fluorescent polystyrene beads Gigamix were used to set a gate between 0.2 and 0.9  $\mu$ m bead populations, defined as L-EVs gate. EVs were expressed as events/ $\mu$ l (absolute count) with the volume measurement of the CytoFLEX S.

**Results:** All enrolled patients had histologically confirmed PSVD. Among them, 12 had unprovoked PSVD, 4 were drug-related, 3 were associated with gastrointestinal diseases, 3

with immune-mediated conditions, and 7 cases were linked to myeloproliferative disorders. Endothelium-derived L-EVs co-expressing calcein-AM, annexin V, CD62E, and TF were significantly increased in PSVD patients compared to healthy controls ( $p < 0.0001$ ), reflecting endothelial activation and prothrombotic predisposition (Table1). Patients also exhibited a marked increase in platelet-derived L-EVs, particularly calcein-AM<sup>+</sup>/annexin V<sup>+</sup>/CD41<sup>+</sup>/CD62P<sup>+</sup> L-EVs ( $p = 0.004$ ), indicating enhanced platelet activation and a contribution to vascular and coagulative responses (Table1). Notably, endothelial and platelet L-EV significantly correlated with PSVD etiology ( $r = 0.38$ ,  $p = 0.04$ ), with patients affected by myeloproliferative disease-related PSVD showing significantly higher levels than those with other etiologies ( $p = 0.046$  and  $0.032$ , respectively). Angiogenesis-related calcein-AM<sup>+</sup>/annexin V<sup>+</sup>/CD105<sup>+</sup>/CD147<sup>+</sup> L-EVs were significantly elevated in patients compared to controls ( $p < 0.0001$ ), suggesting active vascular remodeling. Regarding the inflammatory panel, patients showed significantly lower levels of calcein-AM<sup>+</sup>/annexin V<sup>+</sup>/CD45<sup>+</sup>/CD14<sup>+</sup> L-EVs compared to controls ( $p = 0.0002$ ), indicating reduced monocyte/leukocyte-driven inflammatory activation (Table1).

**Conclusions:** In conclusion, patients with PSVD display a L-EV profile characterized by vascular remodeling, endothelial and platelet activation. On the other hand, patients exhibited significantly lower levels of inflammatory L-EVs, suggesting limited systemic immune activation. Our preliminary findings support the hypothesis that PSVD is primarily driven by endothelial dysfunction and platelet activation, rather than by leukocyte-mediated inflammation. The etiology of PSVD appears to influence L-EV levels.

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	<b>PSVD Patients (n. 29)</b>	<b>Healthy Controls (n. 9)</b>	<b>P value</b>
<b>Angiogenic Panel</b>			
<i>Calcein-AM+CD105+</i>	4006 [1360]	1307 [667]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<i>Calcein-AM+CD147+</i>	2335 [634]	895 [419]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<i>AnnexinV+CD105+</i>	997 [301]	618 [133]	<b>0.002</b>
<i>AnnexinV+CD147+</i>	991 [302]	340 [92]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<i>AnnexinV+CD105+CD147+</i>	12 [9]	16 [8]	0.255
<i>Calcein-AM+AnnexinV+CD105+CD147+</i>	206 [100]	58 [24]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<b>Inflammation Panel</b>			
<i>Calcein-AM+CD14+</i>	722 [322]	1300 [756]	<b>0.003</b>
<i>Calcein-AM+CD45+</i>	681 [306]	1027 [669]	<b>0.026</b>
<i>Annexin+CD14+</i>	330 [119]	736 [149]	<b>0.0002</b>
<i>Annexin+CD45+</i>	387 [134]	729 [177]	<b>0.0008</b>
<i>Annexin+CD45+CD14+</i>	76 [31]	173 [37]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<i>Calcein-AM+AnnexinV+CD45+CD14+</i>	167 [65]	413 [78]	<b>0.0002</b>
<b>Endothelial Panel</b>			
<i>Calcein-AM+CD62E+</i>	517 [276]	560 [236]	0.731
<i>Calcein-AM+TF+</i>	234 [89]	43 [22]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<i>Annexin+CD62E+</i>	1023 [327]	58 [22]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<i>AnnexinV+TF+</i>	691 [242]	871 [332]	0.086
<i>Annexin+CD62E+TF+</i>	112 [42]	75 [42]	0.145
<i>Calcein-AM+AnnexinV+CD62E+TF+</i>	67 [29]	14 [11]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<b>Platelet Panel</b>			
<i>Calcein-AM+CD41+</i>	2026 [633]	965 [503]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<i>Calcein-AM+CD62P+</i>	579 [312]	436 [250]	0.084
<i>AnnexinV+CD41+</i>	1720 [690]	934 [467]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<i>Annexin+CD62P+</i>	463 [271]	339 [179]	0.058
<i>AnnexinV+CD41+CD62P+</i>	77 [44]	27 [9]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<i>Calcein-AM+AnnexinV+CD41+CD62P+</i>	1954 [583]	1388 [607]	<b>0.004</b>

L-EV profiles in cases and controls. Data (events/ $\mu$ L (V)) are expressed as Median [Dev.ST].