Chem 412 Seminar  
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Sjogren’s Syndrome: Molecular Analysis of Dry Mouth

Abstract:
Sjogren’s syndrome is a chronic, autoimmune disease, mostly targeting salivary, lacrimal, and Bartholin’s glands in the vagina. In some cases, Sjogren’s may be associated with rheumatic diseases primarily affecting joints, bones, muscles, and skin. Patients mostly experience dry eyes and mouth, sometimes associated with arthritic symptoms. Dental cavities are also a problem resulting from the dry mouth. The onset of this condition is unknown. Research has focused on the role of apoptosis in initiating autoimmune diseases as well as a genetic predisposition to the disease, viral infections or hormones as an initiating factor. Autoantibodies participating in disease expression respond to the ribonucleoproteins Ro and La and cytoskeletal protein α-fodrin. The immune response to the proteins may play a role in the symptoms of the disease. Although classification of the disorder has been clinically challenging due to many symptoms and no distinguishing marker, steps have been made to eliminate false positive and false negative cases for study. Until continuity is established, therapy remains symptomatic. Future directions are focused on regulating or modifying the immune response of the disease.

References: