



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

السيد الأستاذ الدكتور/ رئيس قسم الميكروبيولوجى الطبيه والمناعة
تحية طيبة وبعد،

برجاء التكرم بالموافقة على مجمل أبحاثي العلمية لتقديمها للجنة العلمية الدائمة (الأساتذة
والأساتذة المساعدين) للترقية لدرجة "أستاذ مساعد"؛

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LncRNAs, MALAT1 and lnc-DC as potential biomarkers for
multiple sclerosis diagnosis

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.Type of research: Join international

Published on: Bioscience Reports, 2019

Abstract

Long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) play an important role in gene regulation and show great tissue specificity and complexity of biological functions. There is on-going research in their contribution in autoimmune diseases like multiple sclerosis (MS). Our study aimed at the evaluation of serum levels of lncRNAs, MALAT1 and lnc-DC in MS patients and the investigation of the association between these lncRNAs and the disease activity. Serum from 45 MS patients and 45 healthy controls was separated. MALAT1 and lnc-DC expression levels were assayed by qRT-PCR. MALAT1 and lnc-DC were significantly increased in MS patients ($P=0.004$ and $P=0.006$, respectively) in comparison with controls. There was a significant increase in expression of MALAT1 in secondary progressive MS (SPMS) subgroup compared with controls ($P<0.0001$) however, significant elevation of lnc-DC was demonstrated in relapsing remitting MS (RRMS) subtype ($P=0.003$) compared with normal controls. A positive association between the expression levels of MALAT1 and lnc-DC ($r = 0.513$, $P < 0.0001$) in MS patients was detected. Moreover, positive correlation was observed between MALAT1 and lnc-DC in RRMS ($r = 0.569$, $P = 0.001$). Serum levels of MALAT1 and lnc-DC may serve as potential novel molecular biomarkers for MS diagnosis and may provide a new direction for its treatment.