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Master Thesis Defense

Entitled

ASSOCIATION OF HUMAN LEUKOCYTE ANTIGEN (HLA) ALLELES WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN THE UAE POPULATION

by

SUHIB ZIAD MOHAMMMAD ABU JWAYED

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Khalid Mohammad, Department of Biology

College of Science

Date & Venue

2:00 pm

Tuesday, 14 Nov 2023

F3-226

Abstract

In the face of the increasing global prevalence of Atopic Dermatitis (AD), a chronic inflammatory skin condition, this thesis seeks to elucidate the genetic underpinnings of AD within the UAE population. Previous literature has underscored the ethnic-specific involvement of HLA genetic variations, especially within HLA-A and HLA-DRB1 genes, in the pathogenesis of various skin diseases, including AD. Leveraging this knowledge, our research specifically aimed to investigate the association between these HLA variants and AD in the UAE. Utilizing a comparative approach, the frequencies of HLA-A and HLA-DRB1 variants were assessed in AD patients vis-à-vis a control group. Our data, based on frequency data and corroborated by z-test and chi-square statistical analyses, indicated a non-specific association of any of the HLA-A or HLA-DRB1 variants within AD susceptibility or protection.

Keywords: Atopic Dermatitis, UAE population, HLA genetic variations, HLA-A, HLA-DRB1, eczema