

# Thiopurine metabolites levels in pediatric IBD

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# Background

- Azathioprine ( AZA) and 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP) are commonly used in pediatric IBD, and are effective for maintenance of remission
- In IBD studies - levels of the thiopurine metabolite 6-TGN are higher in patients in remission compared to those with active disease
- Meta-analysis showed that patients with levels above 230-260 pmol/ $8 \times 10^8$  RBC are 3.3 times more likely to result in remission

*Osterman, et al. Gastroenterology 2006;130:1047*

# Background

- Metabolite testing can be used to determine adherence with thiopurine therapy
- Metabolite testing can be used to guide dose increases or modifications in patients with active disease
- Routine and repetitive metabolite testing has little or no role in patients who are doing well and taking an acceptable dose of a thiopurine

*Benkov K, et al. NASPGHAN Consensus Statement/Clinical Report: The Role of Thiopurine Metabolite Testing and Thiopurine Methyltransferase (TPMT) Determination in Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease; JPGN, 2013, in press*

# Aims

- To describe our experience of the clinical usefulness of measuring thiopurine metabolite levels
- To evaluate the correlation between drug dosage and level of metabolites, as well as proxy markers: leukocytes, MCV
- To evaluate the effect of metabolite measurement on clinical decisions

# Patients & Methods

- Children  $\leq$  18 yrs with CD or UC from two GI divisions
- Thiopurine treatment of at least 12 weeks and at least one metabolite level measurement
- Data extraction:
  - Demographic data, IBD type, thiopurine dose (mg/kg), other medications, laboratory tests
  - Disease activity - by Harvey-Bradshaw Score and physician global assessment
  - Therapeutic decision post metabolite level measurement and reasons for decision

# Patients & Methods

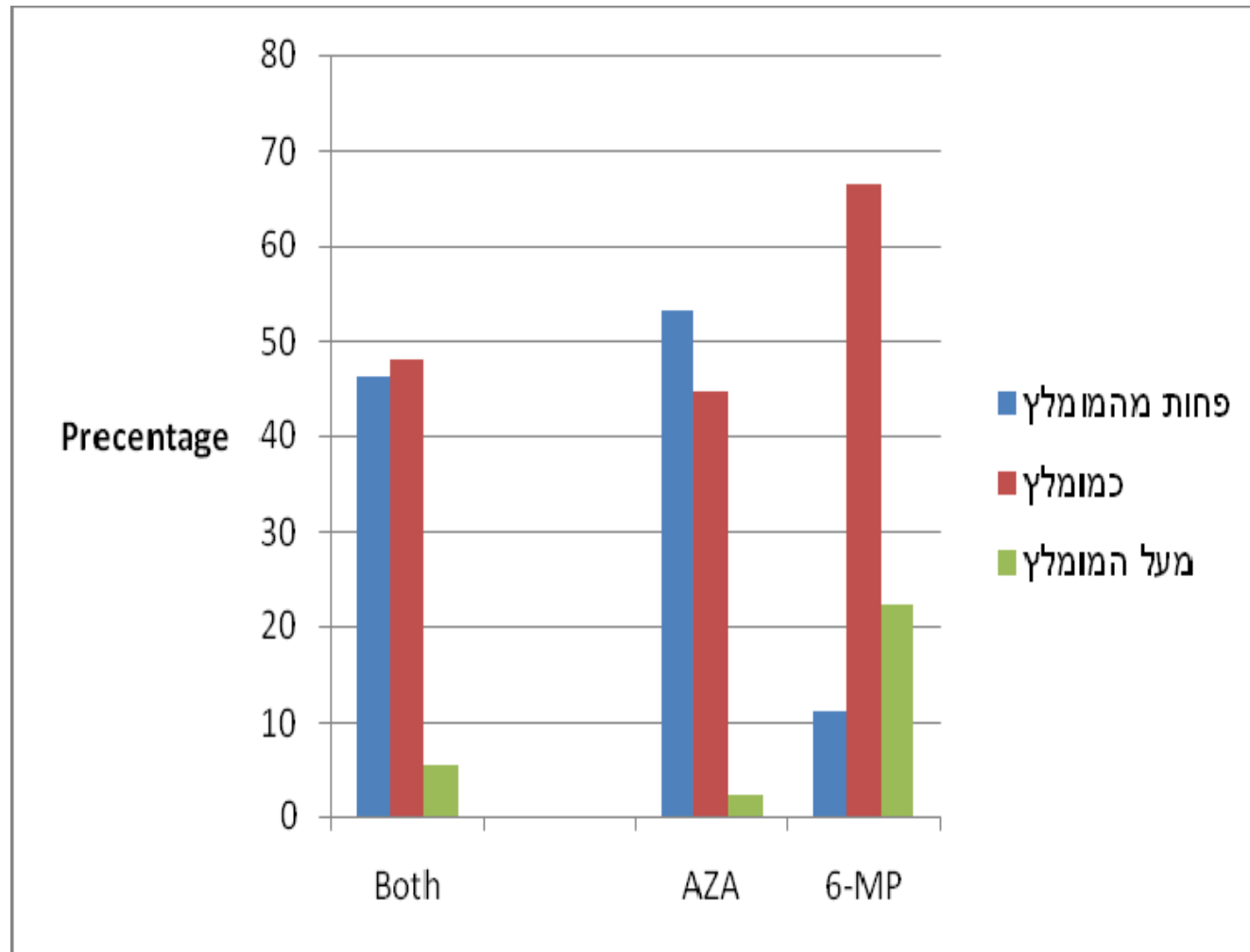
- Metabolite levels measured at toxicology lab at Sheba medical center:
  - 6-TGN - therapeutic level  $> 235 \text{ pmol}/8 \times 10^8 \text{ RBC}$
  - 6-MMP- toxic level  $> 5700 \text{ pmol}/8 \times 10^8 \text{ RBC}$
- No measurement of TPMT
- Therapeutic decision:  
No change, dose change, stop medication
- Relation of decision to metabolite levels:  
Due to high level, low level, normal level, no relation to level

# Results - Patients

- 69 patients screened
- 13 excluded due to insufficient data
- 137 metabolite measurements ( $2.4 \pm 2.2$ / patient)
- Males - 36 (64%)
- Age -  $15.7 \pm 4.3$  y

משתנה		מס'	%
סה"כ משתתפים		56	100.0
סוג המחלה	Crohn's	44	78.6
	UC	12	21.4
פעילות המחלה	מחלה פעילה	23	42.6
	רמיסיה	31	57.4
Missing = 2			
סוג הטיפול התרופתי	AZA	47	83.9
	6-MP	9	16.1
טיפול מקביל בסטרואידים	לא	35	62.5
	כן	21	37.5
טיפול מקביל ב-5-ASA	לא	34	60.7
	כן	22	39.3
טיפול מקביל ברמיקיד	לא	47	83.9
	כן	9	19

# Thiopurine Dose at first exam



**Recommended dose: AZA 2-3 mg/kg, 6MP 1-1.5 mg/kg**



## 6-TGN levels

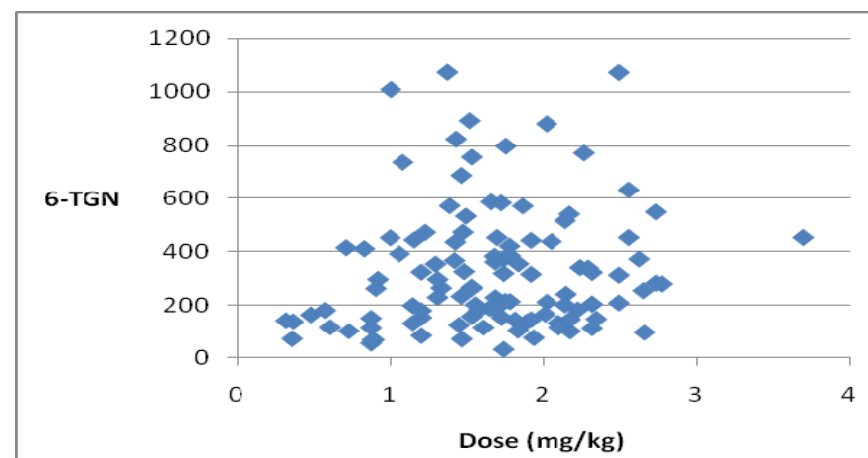
ערך חציוני של 6-TGN	6-TGN ברמה תרפויטית		6-TGN מתחת לרמה תרפויטית		
	שיעור מלוקחי התרופה (%)	מס'	שיעור מלוקחי התרופה (%)	מס'	
234	49.6	56	50.4	57	AZA
418	83.3	20	16.7	4	6-MP
273	44.5	61	55.4	76	בכלל הבדיקות
364	66.1	37	33.9	19	בבדיקה ראשונה

- 137 Exams performed
- No difference in median values between AZA and 6MP

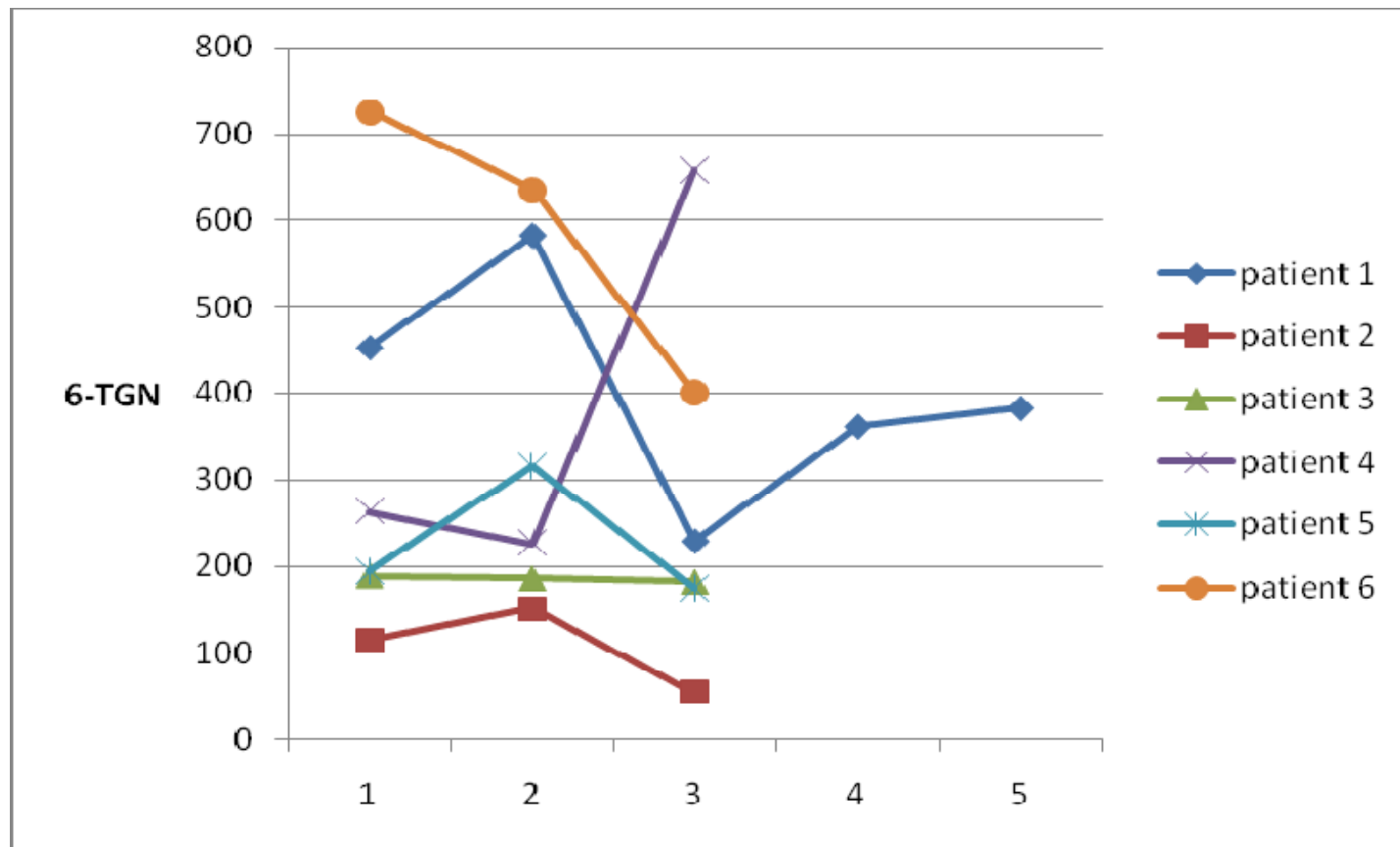
# Relation between 6-TGN level and drug dose

6-TGN תרפויטי		6-TGN תת תרפויטי		מינון התרופה
%	מס	%	מס	
100	76	100	61	בדיקות (סה"כ) (137)
46.1	35	67.2	41	מתחת למומלץ
48.7	37	31.1	19	כפי המומלץ
5.2	4	1.7	1	מעל למומלץ

No correlation between drug dose and metabolite level



# 6-TGN level - individual variability



# 6-TGN level & Disease activity

המשתנה	סה"כ	מחלה פעילה	רמיסיה	Pvalue
	מס	%	מס	%
בדיקות	133	100.0	90	100.0
תרופה	109	82.0	71	78.9
AZA	24	18.0	19	21.1
6-MP				0.67
מינון	58	43.6	40	44.4
כמומלץ ומעלה	75	56.4	50	55.6
פחות מהמומלץ				0.29
6-TGN	73	54.9	51	56.7
תרפויטי	60	45.1	39	43.3
נמוך				0.55
6-MMP	7	5.3	6	6.7
טוקסי	126	94.7	84	93.3
תקין				0.43

No relation between metabolite levels and disease activity

# Drug interactions

P value	6-TGN תרפויטי		לערך	מתחת		6-TGN תרפויטי	
	%	מס		%	מס		
	100	73		100	60		בדיקות (סה"כ) (133)
0.04	30.1	22		18.3	11		עם טיפול מקביל ב-5-ASA
	69.9	51		81.7	49		ללא טיפול מקביל ב-5-ASA
0.10	24.7	18		36.7	22		עם טיפול מקביל <u>ברמיקניד</u>
	75.3	55		63.3	38		ללא טיפול מקביל <u>ברמיקניד</u>

- Increased 6TGN levels with 5-ASA co-therapy
- No influence to Infliximab treatment

## Multivariate analysis

Only 5-ASA co-therapy was related to increased 6-TGN levels

## Proxy markers

No correlation between WBC, ANC, MCV to metabolite levels

## Toxicity

No bone marrow or liver toxicity were encountered

# Management change

החלטה טיפולית	רמת 6-TGN תרפויטית מס' %	רמת 6-TGN תרפויטית מס' %
סה"כ	57 100	72 100
ללא שינוי	29 50.9	55 76.4
הפסקת הטיפול	3 5.3	4 5.6
שינוי מינון	25 43.8	13 18.0

P=0.003

## Management change and metabolite levels in active disease vs. remission

משתנה		מחלה פעילה		רמיסיה	
		מס'	%	מס'	%
סה"כ מטופלים עם 6-TGN נמוך		19	100	38	100
ללא שינוי		8	42.1	21	55.3
הפסקת הטיפול		0	0.0	3	7.9
שינוי מינון		11	57.9	14	36.8
סה"כ מטופלים עם 6-TGN בטווח תרפויטי		22	100	49	100
ללא שינוי		15	68.2	39	79.6
הפסקת הטיפול		1	4.5	3	6.1
שינוי מינון		6	27.3	7	14.3



# Summary

- Levels of 6-TGN do not correlate with AZA/6MP dose, disease activity, and proxy parameters, in the current study
- Reproducibility of metabolite testing is variable
- 5-ASA Co-therapy is related to increased 6-TGN levels
- Management changes were more frequent in patients with nontherapeutic 6-TGN levels
- In patients in clinical remission with therapeutic metabolite levels dose changes were infrequent

# Conclusions

- AZA/6MP metabolite measurement can be used for dose adjustment in patients with active disease, since proxy markers and recommended dosage do not correlate with metabolite levels
- In patients in remission - metabolite testing will probably not contribute to clinical management

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