MONOCYTE ACTIVATION TEST (MAT): IDENTIFICATION OF MONOGRAPHS THAT RECOMMEND RABBIT PYROGEN TEST (RPT) AND BACTERIAL ENDOTOXIN TEST (BET) AS A KICK-OFF FOR SHOWING APPLICABILITY OF MAT

Caldeira C¹, Cruz M¹, Freitas J¹, Presgrave O¹, Moraes A², Delgado I¹

¹ National Institute of Quality Control in Health (INCQS/FIOCRUZ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
² Oswaldo Cruz Institute (IOC/FIOCRUZ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Introduction

Injectable products must be pyrogen free since this kind of contamination may cause fever, shock or even death¹. The first important toxicological assay developed for the detection of pyrogen contamination of injectable products was the Rabbit Pyrogen Test (RPT). Bacterial Endotoxin Test (BET), also known as Limulus Amoebocyte Lysate (LAL) was taken as a replacement for RPT, but, it detects only endotoxins and some interferences may occur on the reaction depending on the products tested, specially biologicals¹,². Monocyte Activation Test (MAT) was introduced in the European Pharmacopoeia in 2010 as a third assay for detecting pyrogenic contamination.

MAT is thought to be a good replacement for RPT, however ICCVAM stated that: I – MAT was not adequately evaluated to detect endotoxin in a sufficient number and range of parenteral pharmaceuticals and in no biological products and medical devices; II – there is no sufficient data that support the ability to detect non-endotoxin pyrogens; and III – it can be considered to detect pyrogen in human parenteral drugs on a case-by-case basis, subject to validation for each specific product¹.

Objective

Identify which products are requested for Rabbit Pyrogen Test and/or Bacterial Endotoxin Test to serve as a schedule for testing Monocyte Activation Test applicability.

Method

Each Monograph in the United States (USP), European (Eur. Ph.) and Brazilian (Braz. Ph.) Pharmacopoeias were evaluated and checked about requiring RPT and/or BET. Products were listed in an MS-Excel® plan.

Results

RPT is required for 20 Monographs in USP, 37 in Eur. Ph. and 32 in Braz. Ph. (Figure 1) and BET appears in 619 Monographs in USP, 157 in Eur.Ph and 48 in Braz.Ph. (Figure 2), including drugs, biologicals and medical devices. Three products require pyrogenicity in the 3 Pharmacopoeias. Both RPT and BET are recommended by 6 Monographs in Braz. Ph. and 15 in Eur. Ph. and it is allowed to choose which test is to be applied. In Braz. Ph. most are biologicals (vaccines and hyperimmune sera), so, these products should be the first ones to be tested for the applicability to MAT since they are tested mainly by RPT.

Conclusion

Taking into account these ICCVAM statements, a collection of data referring to Pharmacopeial Monographs that indicate a need for pyrogenicity analysis may be used as a kick-off for a study of the applicability of MAT to other products such as biologicals, as well as for studying the response of MAT to other non-endotoxin pyrogens.

In Braz.Ph, most of the monographs that require RPT are those referred to biologicals, so, these products should be the first ones to be tested for the applicability to MAT since they are tested mainly by RPT.

References

¹ MELANDRI, V; FARIA, G; CALDEIRA, C; PRESGRAVE, O. U tilização de métodos alternativos na determinação da contaminação pirogênica do controle de produtos injetáveis sujeitos à Vigilância Sanitária. Universitas: Ciências da Saúde, Brasília. v.8, n.2, p. 69-95, jalscuba, 2010