

Peripheral cytokine profile in Chilean patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis

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Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) belong to the group of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), with complex ethiopathogenic factors that include an unbalanced immune and inflammatory response to commensal and food antigens. The differential diagnosis between CD and UC is performed using clinical, endoscopic, histopathological, serological and radiological methods; however between 10-15% of IBD patients are diagnosed as "unclassified colitis". Further research into IBD is necessary in order to develop additional diagnostic tools. The aim of this work was to see if the Th1, Th17 or Th2 immune pattern, represented by CD4 + lymphocytes producing IFN- γ , IL-17 and IL-5 or IL-13, respectively (CD4/IFN- γ +, CD4/IL-17+, CD4/IL-5+ or, CD4/IL13+), are useful peripheral markers which can be used to differentiate between UC and CD. Peripheral blood samples were taken from IBD patients from the Clinic Hospital of the University of Chile. The percentage of IFN- γ -, IL-17-, IL-5- or IL-13-exp