

Table of contents

1. Abstract	4
2. Introduction	5
3. Methods	8
3.1 Patients	8
3.2 Sample collection	8
3.3 Serum IL-21 Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assays	9
3.3 Statistical Analysis	9
4. Results	10
4.1 Patients	10
4.2 IL-21 Serum Levels in the peritransplant period are elevated in some patients	11
4.3 Pre- and posttransplant serum levels correlate with the occurrence of acute GvHD	13
4.4 IL-21 and clinical Parameters	13
4.5 External validation	13
5. Discussion	14
6. Heterophilic antibodies	15
6.1 Human antibodies causing interference on two-site immunoassays	15
6.2 The nature of interfering antibodies	16
6.3 Strategies to prevent interference	18
7. Conclusions	20
8. References	21
9. Supplemental Figures	23