

Sickle Cell disease – The same disease different approaches

O estudo da anemia das células falciformes: uma doença, diferentes estudos

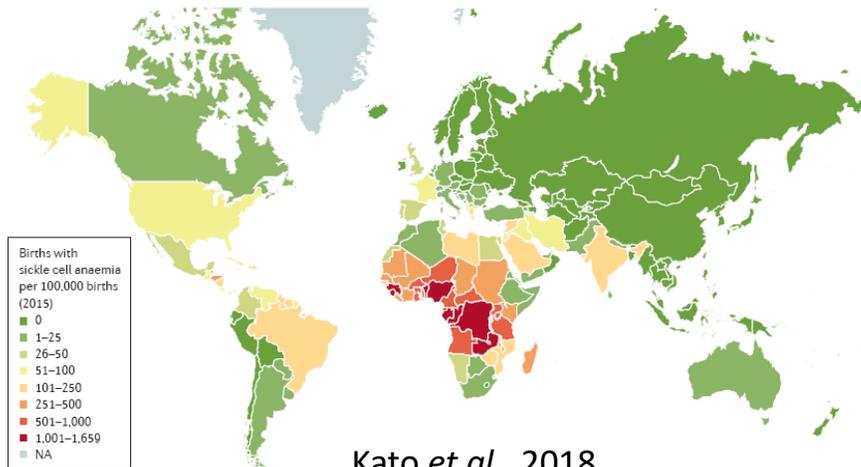
Miguel Brito,

Mariana Delgado, Catarina Ginete & Edna Ribeiro

CENTRO DE INVESTIGAÇÃO EM SAÚDE E TECNOLOGIA
(H&TRC)



Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)



Kato *et al.*, 2018

In 2006, WHO identified SCD as a significant public health problem in Africa that may contribute to up to 16% of under-5 mortality.

- SCD is caused by a structural variation of hemoglobin which results from a substitution at position 6 of the beta globin molecule (Glu to Val).
- Prevalence in Angola is 1.5%, with 21% carriers of S allele
- Prevalence is increasing in Europe due to past and present migration
- Clinical manifestations occur from hemolysis and vaso-occlusion phenomena and can be acute and chronic
- Great heterogeneity in SCD phenotype
- Disease protective genetic modifiers act mainly through an increased HbF level
- Genetic and Epigenetic mechanisms are associated with HbF regulation



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International Collaboration



Health and Technology Research Center (H&TRC)
at Lisbon School of Health Technology, Lisbon
Polytechnic Institute, Portugal



Health Research Center of Angola (CISA)



*A successful South North
cooperation since 2012*

The study of sickle cell disease

Ongoing studies:



FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR

Research project in the SCD cohort - **SCAFoldChild** - 200 SCD Angolan children

Alpha-thalassemia deletion in SCD influences the hematological and clinical aspects and produces a mild phenotype.

Molecular Biology Reports
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11033-020-05628-8>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Co-Inheritance of alpha-thalassemia and sickle cell disease in a cohort of Angolan pediatric patients

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International Journal of
Environmental Research
and Public Health



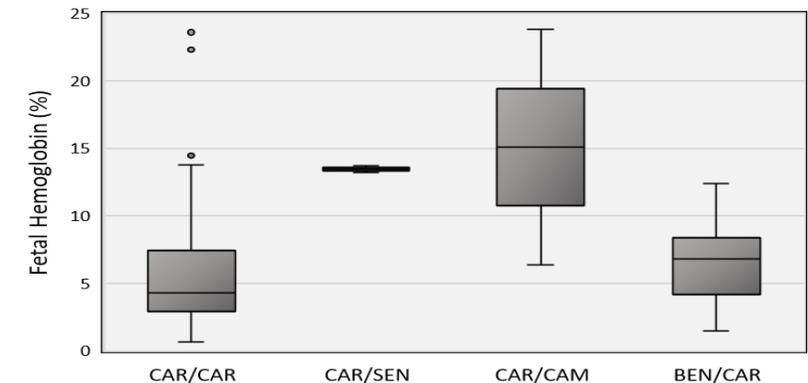
Article

Genotypic Diversity among Angolan Children with Sickle Cell Anemia

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¹ H&TRC—Health & Technology Research Center, ESTeSL—Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde,

Important biomarkers for personalized medicine in SCD follow-up



The polymorphism in BCL11A important SCD phenotype modifier

The non coding gene BGLT3 important factor in gamma globin expression

Ongoing studies:

New therapeutic targets

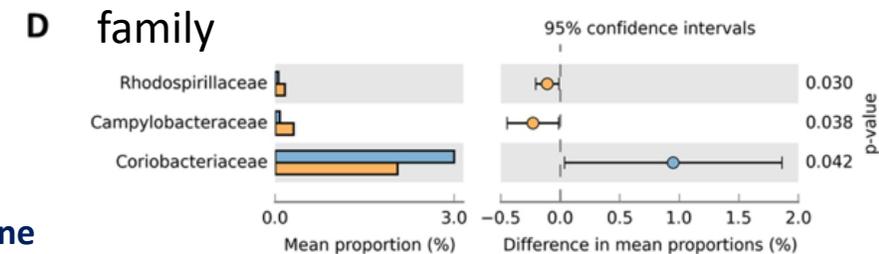
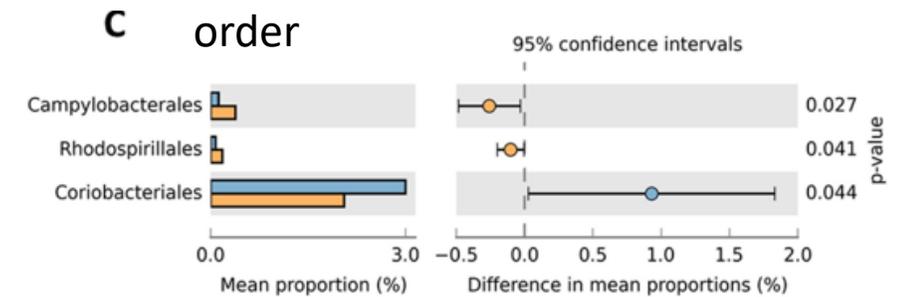
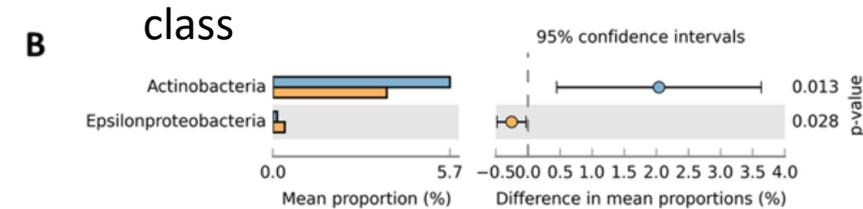
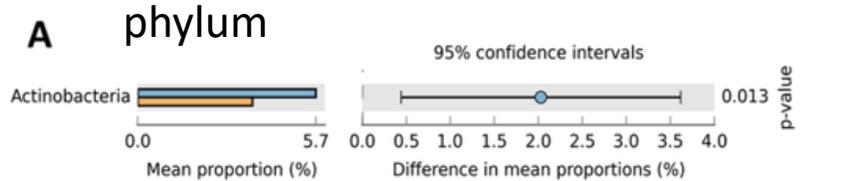
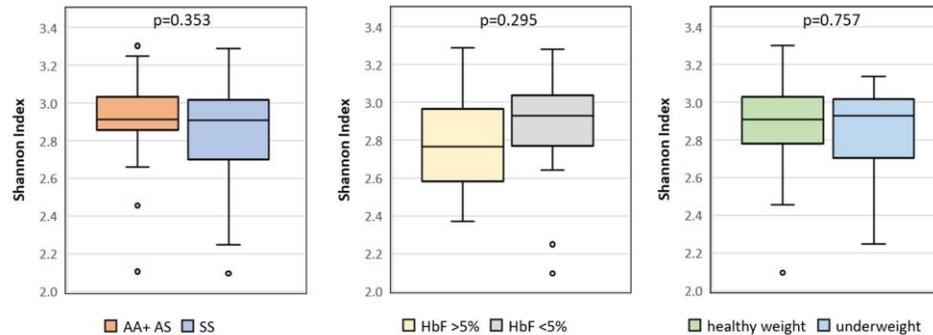
How SCD modulates the intestinal microbiome?

Can HU treatment influence the microbiome composition?

Which bacteria are associated with mild/severe symptoms?

Association with clinical parameters

Therapeutic Targets for the Microbiome



Genera

Clostridium cluster XI more prevalent in the SCA children,

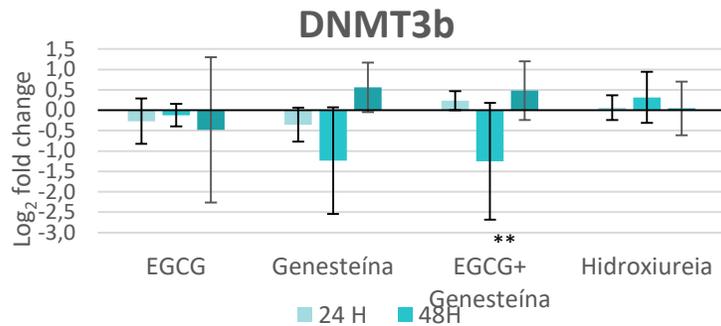
Siblings had a higher abundance of *Blautia*, *Aestuariispira*, *Campylobacter*, *Helicobacter*, *Polaribacter* and *Anaerorhabdus*

In press 2022 - Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine

Ongoing studies: New Therapeutic approaches

Test the effect of natural compounds on the reactivation of the γ -globin gene and induction of HbF in human cell lines

- Potential effects on the transcriptional levels of the gene regulators of γ -globin silencing
- Evaluate the potential in the induction of globins mRNA expression by RT-qPCR
- Evaluate the effect on epigenetic modulators (DNMT and HDAC genes)
- Evaluate the effect in regulation of miRNA



Journal Pre-proof *Clinical Complementary Medicine and Pharmacology*
Epigenetic and Transcriptional Modulator Potential of Epigallocatechin-3-gallate and Genistein on Fetal Hemoglobin Reactivators Genes
Edna Ribeiro, Mariana Delgado, Elisabete Matos, Raquel Santos, Daniela Sousa, Heloisa Galante, Miguel Brito
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ccmp.2022.100034>

Genistein (GN)

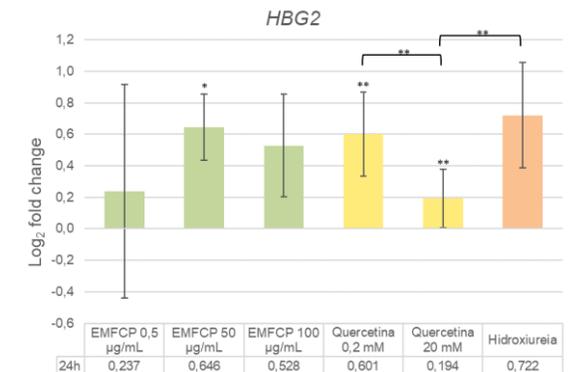
Major isoflavone found in soy and its derivatives

Epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG)

Major catechin of green tea



Extrato de *Carica papaya*





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Thanks for your attention



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