Immune Regulation

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Molecular Immunology

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- Regulatory (Treg) cells
- Immunosuppressive cytokine: TGF- β
- Inhibitory molecules: CTLA-4 & PD-1 / PD-L1
- Depletion of effector cells: Apoptosis

Primary and secondary immune response



Mechanisms of immune response



Apoptosis defect leads to lethal lymphoproliferation and a tolerance break



Tolerance

Tolerance

- Property of the immune system not to respond to self-antigens
- Differentiation between "self" and "foreign"

Tolerance break — Autoimmune diseases

Tolerance

• 2 Levels of immunological tolerance:

Central tolerance

Peripheral tolerance

Central Tolerance & T cell development



Central Tolerance & T cell development



Handel.2018

Peripheral Tolerance & T cell development



B cell selection



Gururajan. 2014

Regulatory T (Treg) cells

Treg cell markers





Hori et al. Science (2003) 299:1057

Treg cell sources



FoxP3 mutation causes autoimmune syndrome

IPEX = immunodysregulation, polyendocrinopathy, enteropathy, X linked (IPEX) syndrome



Weber et al., Pädiatrische Gastroenterologie, Hepatologie und Ernährung, pp 731-744, Springer 2013

Bennett et al., *Nat Genet* 2001 Brunkow et al., *Nat Genet* 2001 Chatila et al., *J Clin Inv* 2000



Scurfy mouse (spontaneous mutation)

Effects of Treg cell deficiency / enrichment



a Inhibitory cytokines



b Cytolysis



c Metabolic disruption





d Targeting dendritic cells

Treg cells inhibit T cell proliferation: in vitro suppression assay



Treg cells inhibit T cell proliferation: *in vitro* suppression assay



Supressive immune cells



Immunosuppressive cytokine: TGF- β

Immunosuppressive Cytokine: TGF- β

"TGF-ß: Brake of the immune system."

"TGF-ß influences the life and death of T lymphocytes."

S.M. Wahl: Cytokine Growth Factor Rev. 11, 71-79 (2000)

TGF-β family:

- TGF-β1 (predominant in the immune system)
- TGF-β2
- TGF-β3

Involved in embryogenesis, carcinogenesis and the immune response

TGF- β 1 deficient mouse



TGF- β secreting cells



TGF- β structure



TGF- β : from secretion to gene induction



Li & Flavell, Cell. 2008 Aug 8;134(3):392-404.

TGF- β signaling



TGF- β -mediated T cell regulation



Li & Flavell, Cell. 2008 Aug 8;134(3):392-404.

TGF- β -mediated immune synapsis regulation



Li & Flavell, Cell. 2008 Aug 8;134(3):392-404.

Effects of TGF- β on immune cells



Inhibitory molecules

CTLA-4

PD-1 / PD-L1

CTLA-4

- **CTLA-4**: cytotoxic T-lymphocyte antigen-4 (CD152)
- **CD28 homologue**: immunoglobulin family
- Inhibitory receptor: binds to CD80 and CD86 with higher affinity than CD28. Inhibits T cell activity and causes cell anergy.
- **Expression:** Treg cells and activated T effector cells (few days after activation)
- **CTLA-4**^{-/-} **(KO)-mause**: massive lymphocyte expansion and lymphocyte infiltration into many tissues, uncontrolled lymphocyte proliferation, generalized autoimmune disease, death at about 6 weeks.

CTLA-4 intrinsic effect



Nature Reviews | Immunology

CTLA-4 extrinsic effect



- CTLA-4 binds to CD80/86 on dendritic cells (DC)
- Induction of indolamine-2,3-dioxygenase (IDO) – immunosuppressive molecule
- Reduction of CD80/80 availability
- Possible: inhibition of DC maturation

- **PD-1:** Programmed cell death protein 1 (CD279)
- Immunoglobulin family
- Inhibitory receptor: inhibits TCR- and BCR-mediated cell activation
- **Expression:** activated T cells, B cells, monocytes, NK cells, and certain DCs.
- PD-L1
 - PD-L1 (B7-H1 or CD274): B7 family
 - Abnormal high expression of PD-L1 in tumor cells

PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitory mechanism



Jiang, X., Wang, J., Deng, X. *et al.* Role of the tumor microenvironment in PD-L1/PD-1-mediated tumor immune escape. *Mol Cancer*

CTLA-4 and PD-1 checkpoint inhibitors





CTLA-4 and PD-1 checkpoint inhibitors



Soularue. 2018

Depletion of effector cells -Apoptosis-

Apoptosis

AΠΟΠΤΩΣΙΣ (Greek)

- = Fall off petals or tree leaves
- Cell biology (immunology):
 - Apoptosis = "programmed cell death"

Necrosis vs. Apoptosis



Apoptosis

Programmed cell death

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2002 was awarded jointly to Sydney Brenner, H. Robert Horvitz and John E. Sulston "for their discoveries concerning genetic regulation of organ development and programmed cell death'."







Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive. **H. Robert Horvitz**



Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive. John E. Sulston



Apoptosis as an essential part of organogenesis

• Tissue homeostasis: balance between renewal (mitosis) and elimination of disused cells (apoptosis)

Life and death balance



10 billion (10¹⁰) of our body cells (10¹⁴) have to die every day to compensate for the new cells created by mitosis. (M. T. Heemels: Nature 2000 407:769)

Without cell death, an 80-year-old person would have 2 tons of bone marrow and lymph nodes and 16 km of intestines (Gerry Melino: The siren's song Nature 2001 412:23)

Physiological role of apoptosis



Preservation of tissue structure in vertebrates

- In the immune system:
 - Negative selection
 - Regulation of the immune response
 - Deletion of infected and abnormal cells







Pathophysiological role of apoptosis

- Insufficient apoptosis:
 - Autoimmune diseases
 - Cancer
 - Virus infection



- Excessive apoptosis:
 - AIDS
 - Stroke
 - Neurodegenerative diseases:
 - Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Retinitis pigmentosa



T cell mediated immune responses



AICD (activation-induced cell death) in T cells



Reminder: Loss of apoptosis leads to lethal lymphoproliferation and a break in tolerance



Elimination of apoptotic cells



"Find me" und "Eat me" signals control the removal of apoptotic cells





Successive steps in the removal of apoptotic cells



Step 1 Recruitment/attraction to 'find-me' signals

Step 2 Recognition of newly exposed 'eat-me' signals and engulfment of corpse

inflammatory cytokines)



Processing and degradation of corpse

Ravichandran K S J Exp Med 2010;207:1807-1817

Influence of apoptotic vs. necrotic cells to the immune response



Defects in cell death elimination in pathophysiological conditions



Thanks for your attention

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