Immune response



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Phases of adaptive immune response



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Antigen Presenting Cells

Dendritic cells:

- costitutive MHC II; Increase with INFg
- Co-stimulatory molecoles are constitutively expressed and inducible

Macrophages:

- costitutive MHC II; Increase with INFg
- co-stimulatory molecoles are inducible by LPS

B Lymphocytes:

- costitutive MHC II; Increase with IL4

- co-stimulatory molecoles are inducible by T lymphocytes interaction (CD40-CD40L)

Vascular endothelial cells:

- costitutive MHC II; Increase with INFg
- Co-stimulatory molecoles are constitutively expressed

Epithelial and mesenchymal cells:

- costitutive MHC II; Increase with INFg
- Co-stimulatory molecules seem not to be expressed



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T-cell Receptor





| Feature | αβ T cells | γδT cells Predominantly CD4 ⁻ CD8 ⁻ (double-negative); murine intestinal IELs may be CD8αα ⁺ | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| CD4 and CD8 phenotype | Major subsetting based on CD4 or CD8 expression | | | |
| Antigen type and presentation | Peptide antigen in the grooves of MHC-I or -II; primary responses require antigen-presenting cell | Identification of TCR ligands incomplete; β ₂ microglobulin independent; some subsets recognize MHC-Ib molecules | | |
| T helper functions | Predominantly CD4 ⁺ ; T helper 1 and 2 cytokine profiles | T helper 1 and 2 cytokine profiles | | |
| T cytotoxic functions | Predominantly CD8+; e.g., perforin/ granzyme production, Fas ligand- mediated, NKG2D-mediated | Various subsets using the same mechanisms | | |
| T regulatory functions | Various T regulatory subsets including CD4+CD25+ cells | Attributable to various subsets, including murine Vγ5 ⁺ DETCs and human Vγ1 ⁺ peripheral cells | | |
| TCR junctional diversity | Relatively vast | Relatively limited; especially limited for IEL populations | | |

Abbreviations: DETC, dendritic epidermal T cell; IEL, intraepithelial lymphocyte; MHC, major histocompatibility complex.



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|------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Stage of maturation | Stem cell | Pro-T | Pre-T | Double positive | Single positive (immature T cell) | Naive mature T cell |
| Proliferation | | | | | 1 | |
| Rag express | ion | | | | | |
| TdT express | ion | | | | 1 | |
| TCR DNA, RNA | Unrecombined (germline) DNA | Unrecombined (germline) DNA | Recombined β chain gene [V(D)J-C]; β chain mRNA | Recombined β , α chain genes [V(D)J-C]; β and α chain mRNA | Recombined β , α chain genes [V(D)J-C]; β and α chain mRNA | Recombined β, α chain genes [V(D)J-C]; β and α chain mRNA |
| TCR expression | None | None | Pre-T receptor $(\beta \text{ chain/pre-T } \alpha)$ | Membrane αβ TCR | Membrane αβ TCR | Membrane αβ TCR |
| Surface markers | c- <i>kit</i> + CD44+ CD25 ⁻ | c- <i>kit</i> + CD44+ CD25+ | c- <i>kit</i> + CD44 ⁻ CD25+ | CD4+CD8+ TCR/CD3 ^{lo} | CD4+CD8 ⁻ or CD4 ⁻ CD8 ⁺ TCR/CD3 ^{hi} | CD4+CD8 ⁻ or CD4-CD8 ⁺ TCR/CD3 ^{hi} |
| Anatomic site | Bone marrow | | Thy | rmus | 1 | Periphery |
| Response to antigen | None | None | None | Positive and negative selection | 1 1 1 | Activation (proliferation and differentiation) |

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Hypothesis of T-cell maturation





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Lymphocytes maturation



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FIGURE 6-7 Development of Th1, Th2, and Th17 effector cells. Dendritic cells and other immune cells that respond to different types of microbes secrete cytokines that induce the development of antigen-activated CD4* T cells into Th1 (A), Th2 (B), and Th17 (C) subsets. The transcription factors that are involved in T cell differentiation are indicated in boxes in the antigen-activated T cells.





FIGURE 6-3 Characteristics of subsets of CD4+ helper T lymphocytes. A naive CD4+ T cell may differentiate into subsets that produce different cytokines that recruit and activate different cell types (referred to as *target cells*) and combat different types of infections in host defense. These subsets also are involved in various kinds of inflammatory diseases. The table summarizes the major differences among Th1, Th2, and Th17 subsets of helper T cells. *IFN*, Interferon; *IL*, interleukin.





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FIGURE 6-12 Mechanisms of killing of infected cells by CD8⁺ cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs). CTLs recognize class I MHC-associated peptides of cytoplasmic microbes in infected cells and form tight adhesions (conjugates) with these cells. Adhesion molecules such as integrins stabilize the binding of the CTLs to infected cells (not shown). The CTLs are activated to release (exocytose) their granule contents (perforin and granzymes) toward the infected cell, referred to as the target cell. Granzymes are delivered to the cytosol of the target cell by a perforin-dependent mechanism. Granzymes then induce apoptosis. *ICAM-1*, Intercellular adhesion molecule 1; *LFA-1*, leukocyte function-associated antigen 1.

How APC present tumor Ags???

Tumor antigens recognized by CTL



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Escape of immune response by cancer cells (tumor escape)

"Several data showed that tumors developed in immunodeficient mice were easily rejected with respect to tumors from WT mice, studying transplantation in WT mice.

It indicates that tumors developed in immune-sufficient mice generate less immunogenic tumor variants"

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Escape of immune response by cancer cells (tumor escape) (1)

Tumor Ags may induce specific immune tollerance

(in particular viral Ags)

Tumor escape (2)

 \cdot Tumor cells reduce the expression of tumor Ags

(particularly evident in tumor with very fast growth in which mut/del can be included in the sequence of TAA) Anti-tumor immunity Tumor T cell recognition cell of tumor antigen leading to T cell activation Tumor T cell antigen specific for MHC tumor antigen molecule Failure to produce tumor antigen Antigen-loss variant of tumor Lack of T cell cell _ recognition of tumor Immune evasion by tumors

Induction of a T-response against tumor





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Tumor escape (3)

 \cdot Some tumor cells reduce the expression of MHC I



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Induction of a T-response against tumor



Tumor escape (4)

 Several tumor cells do not express the ideal co-stimulatory molecules, avoiding a correct response of CTL

(moreover, tumor cells over-expressing CD80 or CD86 induce a strong cell-mediated immune response)



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Induction of a T-response against tumor



Tumor escape (5)

 products secreted by tumor cells can inhibit effector T-cell response

(es. TGF-B secreted by tumor cells inhibit proliferation and functional activation of CD8+ T-lymphocytes)



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Induction of a T-response against tumor



Tumor escape (5)

 products secreted by tumor cells can inhibit effector T-cell response

(es. TGF-B secreted by tumor cells inhibit proliferation and functional activation of CD8+ T-lymphocytes)

... but also of macrophages (APC but also part of the innate immunity)



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Escape of immune response by cancer cells (tumor escape) (6)

• Regulatory T lymphocytes inhibit T-cell response against cancer cells

(Studies in animal models or in patient' samples evidenced and incresce number of Treg and their preferential localization in tumor microenvironment)







Tumor escape (7)

 $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ increased expression of membrane complement inhibitors on tumor cells

(iper-espression of CD46, CD55 e CD59 neutralized the lytic activity of the complement system)







Question: Is it possible enhance immune response against tumor cells and avoid tumor escape?

Answer:

Cancer Immunotherapy