

Publication

Anti-TNF and skin inflammation in IBD: a new paradox in gastroenterology?

JournalItem (Reviews, Editorials, Rezensionen, Urteilsanmerkungen etc. in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4407469

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Year 2014

Title Anti-TNF and skin inflammation in IBD: a new paradox in gastroenterology?

Journal Gut

Volume 63

Number 4

Pages 533-5

Keywords Antibodies/*therapeutic use; Female; Humans; Inflammatory Bowel Diseases/*immunology; Interferon-gamma/*immunology; Interleukin-12/*immunology; Interleukin-17/*immunology; Interleukin-23/*immunology; Interleukins/*immunology; Male; Psoriasis/*immunology; Th1 Cells/*physiology; Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha/*immunology; Inflammatory bowel disease; Tnf

Mesh terms Antibodies, therapeutic use; Female; Humans; Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, immunology; Interferon-gamma, immunology; Interleukin-12, immunology; Interleukin-17, immunology; Interleukin-23, immunology; Interleukins, immunology; Male; Psoriasis, immunology; Th1 Cells, physiology; Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha, immunology

Meningothelial cells (MECs) are the cellular components of the meninges. As such, they provide important barrier function for the central nervous system (CNS) building the interface between neuronal tissue and the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), and are also part of the immune response of the CNS. Human, immortalized MECs were analyzed by flow cytometry and confocal microscopy to study the uptake of apoptotic cells. Furthermore, cytokine and chemokine production by MECs was analyzed by cytokine array and ELISA. We found that MECs are highly active phagocytes able of ingesting and digesting large amounts of apoptotic cells. Furthermore, the uptake of apoptotic cells by MECs was immune suppressive via inhibiting the secretion of pro-inflammatory and chemoattractant cytokines and chemokines IL-6, IL-8, IL-16, MIF, and CXCL1, while increasing the secretion of anti-inflammatory IL-1 receptor antagonist by MECs. MECs respond with the secretion of anti-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines following the uptake of apoptotic cells potentially connecting these cells to processes important for the shut-down of immune responses in the brain.

Publisher British Medical Association

ISSN/ISBN 0017-5749 ; 1468-3288

URL <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3941933/>

edoc-URL <https://edoc.unibas.ch/62394/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1136/gutjnl-2013-304683

PubMed ID <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23570743>

ISI-Number WOS:000332267500002

Document type (ISI) Journal Article, Comment