Helicobacter pylori persistence and immunomodulation

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Helicobacter pylori resides in the human stomach, where it can cause gastritis, peptic ulcer disease and gastric cancer







H. pylori on gastric epithelial cells

Helicobacter pylori resides in the human stomach, where it can cause gastritis, peptic ulcer disease and gastric cancer... or remain asymptomatic

Carriers with clinically overt disease (10-20% of infected population)

Asymptomatic carriers (>80% of infected population)



Helicobacter pylori resides in the human stomach, where it can cause gastritis and peptic ulcer disease... or remain asymptomatic

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modeled by adult infection

modeled by neonatal infection of mice



The *H. pylori* virulence/persistence factors VacA and GGT are required for DC tolerization, regulatory T-cell differentiation and persistence



1 month post infection

Oertli et al. PNAS 2013

VacA promotes the generation of peripherally induced pTregs in the gastric lamina propria and their enrichment in the lung



pTregs: CD4⁺ Foxp3⁺ neuropilin⁻ RORγt⁺ Tbet^{+/-} tTregs: CD4⁺ Foxp3⁺ neuropilin⁺



lung

pulmonary Tregs







Altobelli et al. MBio 2019

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VacA interacts with various myeloid cells in the gastric LP and promotes a tolerogenic transcriptional program



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CD11b⁺ DCs and monocytes and macrophages, but not CD103⁺ DCs, encounter *H. pylori* in the infected gastric mucosa





Arnold et al. Cell Reports, 2017

H. pylori is inversely associated with allergies and chronic inflammatory diseases



Chen & Blaser, 2007; Reibman et al., 2008; Chen & Blaser, 2008; Amberbir et al., 2011, 2014, Genta et al, 2015

Neonatally infected mice are protected against clinical parameters of ovalbumin-induced asthma/allergic airway disease



Arnold et al. J. Clin. Invest. 2011

Neonatally infected mice, but not mice infected as adults, have elevated frequencies of pTregs in their lungs



VacA is required for infection-induced asthma protection and induction of allergy-suppressing Tregs



VacA confers asthma protection when administered in purified form, beginning in early life



Helicobacter pylori colonization confers protection against allergic asthma (and IBD) through its immunomodulator VacA



Asymptomatic carriers (>80%)

Trans-maternal *Helicobacter pylori* exposure *in utero* and/or during lactation has protective effects on offspring





Andreas Kyburz

Kyburz et al. JACI 2018

Helicobacter pylori VacA has protective effects on offspring exposed during lactation





Antibiotic exposure during the second week of life has the opposite effect on pTreg frequencies (and allergic asthma)







with T. Borbet and M. Blaser

In the absence of BATF3-dependent CD103⁺ DCs, there is less Th1 recruitment to infected tissues => infection control is impaired



BATF3-dependent DCs are required for pTreg recruitment to the H. pylori-infected gastric mucosa

stomach

% of Tregs

40 10

% of Tregs



BATF3-dependent DCs promote effector and regulatory T-cell recruitment to infected tissues through two distinct mechanisms



Conclusions

-VacA is a persistence determinant that interacts with myeloid cells in the gastric LP and skews T-cell responses towards Tregs

-direct and trans-maternal exposure to *H. pylori* (or VacA) has trans-generational protective effects in models of allergen-induced asthma

-H. pylori induces pTregs that express Tbet and RORyt and follow a chemokine gradient to infected tissues

-CD103⁺ DCs have a non-redundant role in T-cell recruitment (effector T-cells and Tregs, to infected and tumor tissues and distant sites)

-H. pylori interacts with eosinophils in the gastric lamina propria

Chronic *Helicobacter*-induced inflammation results in preneoplastic gastric pathology



Epithelial hyperplasia

Intestinal metaplasia



H. pylori induces DNA double strand breaks in the nuclear genome of its host cells







Toller et al., PNAS 2011

ctrl.

Screening for *H. pylori* factors involved in DNA double strand break induction reveals a role for the type IV secretion system (T4SS)



Hartung et al., Cell Reports 2015

H. pylori-induced DNA DSBs require transcription, a functional type IV secretion system and NF-kB signaling





Hartung et al., Cell Reports 2015

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