

The Role of Human Dendritic Cell Subsets in Antitumor Immunity

Lili Ma¹, Chunlai Cheng¹, Feifei Gu^{2*}

¹Department of Oncology, General Hospital of the Yangtze River Shipping, Wuhan Hubei

²Cancer Center, Union Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan Hubei

Email: malli19891029@126.com, *gufeifei1988@126.com

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Abstract

Dendritic cells (DCs) are the most potent antigen presenting cells (APC) and critical regulators of immune responses. They play a key role in initiating and regulating the immune responses to pathogens, self-antigens, and cancers. DCs are heterogeneous and highly specialized antigen-presenting cells. Monocyte-derived DCs (MoDC) based therapeutic vaccines have been applied in the treatment of malignancies and showed certain efficacy. And the other dendritic cell subsets also play an important role in antitumor immunity. However, there is no literature that summarizes the roles of different dendritic cell subsets in antitumor immunity until now. Therefore, we reviewed the biological characteristics of human dendritic cell subsets and their roles in antitumor immunity.

Keywords

Dendritic Cell, Antitumor Immunity, Immune Responses, Antigen Presenting Cells, Tumor

人树突状细胞亚群在抗肿瘤免疫中的作用

马莉莉¹, 程春来¹, 谷飞飞^{2*}

¹长江航运总医院肿瘤科, 湖北 武汉

²华中科技大学同济医学院附属协和医院肿瘤中心, 湖北 武汉

Email: malli19891029@126.com, *gufeifei1988@126.com

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摘要

树突状细胞是人体功能最强大的抗原递呈细胞, 在诱导和调控机体针对病原体、自身抗原和癌症的免疫

*通讯作者。

应答中发挥关键作用。树突状细胞是一群异质性细胞，不同的亚群具有独特的表型和功能。基于单核细胞来源的树突状细胞的治疗性疫苗在恶性肿瘤的治疗中显示出一定的疗效，其他树突状细胞亚群在抗肿瘤免疫中也发挥着重要作用。目前，还没有文献对不同树突状细胞亚群在抗肿瘤免疫中的作用进行系统地阐述。为此，我们对人树突状细胞亚群的生物学特征及其在抗肿瘤免疫中的作用进行综述。

关键词

树突状细胞, 抗肿瘤免疫, 免疫应答, 抗原递呈细胞, 肿瘤

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1. 引言

抗肿瘤免疫治疗的发展是一个缓慢而艰辛的过程。1777年，外科医生 James Nooth 给自己注射癌变组织试图控制癌症进展，尽管失败了，这是已知最早的免疫抗癌尝试[1]。1891年，William Coley 发现给肉瘤患者注射链球菌制剂能促进肉瘤体积缩小，并推断是由于细菌制剂诱导了抗肿瘤免疫。以此为起点癌症免疫治疗正式开始，William Coley 也常被人们称为“免疫治疗之父”[2]。利用免疫系统治疗癌症的设想已经出现了两百多年，但直到近几年才真正成为癌症治疗的主流方案。以免疫检查点抑制剂为代表的新型免疫疗法开始应用于临床，癌症免疫治疗因此被评为 2013 年的十大科学突破之首[3]。

1973年，Ralph Steinman 和 Zanvil Cohn 首次在小鼠脾脏中发现并命名了树突状细胞(Dendritic cell, DC)[4]。DC 是人体功能最强大的抗原递呈细胞，免疫应答和免疫耐受的主要调控者，还是沟通先天性免疫和适应性免疫的桥梁。以 DC 作为疫苗治疗病原体感染与肿瘤，或抑制 DC 的功能治疗自身免疫性疾病的治疗方案被广泛探索。

2. 人树突状细胞的生物学特性

DC 起源于骨髓中的造血祖细胞，是抗原递呈细胞中较少的一个种群[5]。人树突状细胞主要由外周血 DC 亚群、皮肤 DC 亚群和炎性 DC 亚群组成；此外，还包括单核细胞和 CD34⁺造血祖细胞经体外诱导分化而成的 DC 亚群。作为专职抗原递呈细胞，DC 能调控免疫耐受与免疫应答，在免疫系统中处于中心位置。此外，DC 还能与 NK 细胞、吞噬细胞和肥大细胞等先天免疫系统的免疫细胞发生相互作用，进而调节免疫反应[6] [7] [8]。DC 在体液免疫的调控中也发挥着重要作用，这种调控是通过与 B 细胞相互作用实现的[9] [10] [11] [12] [13]。

DC 分布于外周组织，它们不断的“检查”这些组织以发现并捕获抗原。DC 捕获抗原后将其加工成可被 T 细胞受体(T cell receptor, TCR)识别的多肽，并表达于细胞表面的抗原递呈分子上。负载抗原之后的 DC 通过引流淋巴管由组织迁移到引流淋巴结，并借助经典抗原递呈分子(MHC I 和 MHC II)和非经典抗原递呈分子(CD1 家族)将其加工过的蛋白或脂质抗原递呈给 T 细胞。可溶性抗原也通过淋巴管到达引流淋巴结，被淋巴结内定居的 DC 递呈。在此过程中 DC 由未成熟状态转化为成熟状态，获得启动抗原特异性免疫应答的能力，诱导 T 细胞增殖并分化成具有独特功能和细胞因子分泌谱的辅助和效应细胞。

通常情况下，体内绝大多数的 DC 都处于未成熟状态[14]。未成熟 DC 低表达共刺激分子，分泌细胞因子能力不足，活化 T 细胞的能力较弱，但摄取抗原的能力更强[15]。未成熟 DC 能向 T 细胞递呈自体抗

原, 通过清除 T 细胞或诱导调节性 T 细胞(Regulatory T, Treg)分化而诱导免疫耐受[16], 是中枢免疫耐受和外周免疫耐受所必需的[17]。未成熟 DC 对环境中的信号做出应答后分化为成熟 DC, 其抗原摄取能力下降, 但 MHC II 分子和共刺激分子表达上调, 同时细胞因子分泌能力增强[15]。负载抗原的成熟 DC 能诱导 CD4⁺T 细胞能分化成 Th1、Th2、Th17、Tfh 或 Treg 细胞, CD8⁺T 细胞分化成细胞毒性 T 淋巴细胞, 从而诱导免疫应答。T 细胞应答的类型取决于递呈抗原的 DC 亚群。各种 DC 在受到不同微生物或免疫细胞提供的不同信号刺激后获得独特表型, 最终诱导不同的免疫应答。

3. 人树突状细胞亚群与抗肿瘤免疫

3.1. Sipuleucel-T

Sipuleucel-T (APC8015, 商品名 Provenge)是目前所知的第一个且唯一的一个以 DC 为基础的高级治疗性疫苗, 被 FDA 批准用于治疗转移性且激素抵抗的前列腺癌[18]。Sipuleucel-T 是由多种抗原递呈细胞组成的疫苗, 包含了血液中的所有 DC 亚群、B 细胞和单核细胞等。疫苗的制备从获得大量自体 PBMC 开始, 将 PBMC 与 PA2024 在体外培养 36~44 个小时。PA2024 是一种融合蛋白, 由肿瘤抗原前列腺酸性磷酸酶与免疫刺激细胞因子 GM-CSF 构成。经过以上同步抗原负载和激活步骤后, 清洗并悬浮这些细胞, 然后通过静脉回输给患者。在一项 III 期临床试验中, Sipuleucel-T 将转移性激素抵抗的前列腺癌患者的总生存期延长了 4.1 个月[19]。

3.2. MoDC

血液中自然生成的 DC 数量极少, 很难获得足够数量的 DC 用于免疫治疗。因此, 多数临床研究通过体外诱导生成大量的 DC 来实现免疫治疗的目的, 被诱导分化成 DC 的起始细胞通常是单核细胞和 CD34⁺造血祖细胞[20]。以 DC 为基础的治疗性疫苗绝大多数树是单核细胞经体外刺激而分化成的 DC, 即单核细胞源性树突状细胞(monocyte derived dendritic cell, MoDC) [13] [20]。到目前为止, MoDC 仍然是构建 DC 疫苗最常用的 DC 类型[21] [22]。MoDC, 尤其是 IL-15 诱导分化的 MoDC 能高效地将黑色素瘤特异性 CD8⁺T 细胞活化成 CTL, 从而在抗黑色素瘤免疫应答中发挥重要作用[23] [24]。

3.3. 人外周血 DC 亚群

血液 DC 约占 PBMC 总数的 1% [25], 根据造血细胞来源可分为两群: 髓系 DC(mDC, 亦称经典 DC, 髓系)和浆细胞样 DC (pDC, 淋系) [20] [26]。髓系 DC 以表达 CD11c 为特征, 根据表面分子表达差异又可分成三个不同亚群: CD141⁺(BDCA3) DC、CD16⁺DC 和 CD1c⁺(BDCA1) DC [25] [27] [28]。CD141⁺DC 是人外周血中数量最少的 DC 亚群, 仅占 PBMC 总数的 0.05%左右[25] [29]。未成熟 CD141⁺DC 特异性表达 C 型凝集素受体 CLEC9A, 还表达 toll 样受体(Tolllikereceptor, TLR)如 TLR1、TLR2、TLR3、TLR6、TLR8 和 TLR10; 前者介导人 CD141⁺DC 对抗原的摄取和(交叉)递呈, 后者刺激 DC 成熟[18] [21]。人 CD141⁺DC 与小鼠 CD8 α ⁺DC 有很多相似的表型, 两者都表达 TLR3、Nectin2 (Nectin-like protein2)和 CLEC9A [30] [31] [32] [33] [34]。因此, 有学者认为人 CD141⁺DC 与小鼠 CD8 α ⁺DC 相对应, 二者具有类似的功能特性。然而, 值得注意的是人鼠 DC 之间还有很大的差异, 如小鼠的 mDC 表达 TLR9 并分泌干扰素- α (Interferon α , IFN- α) [35] [36], 而在人身上这些是 pDC 独有的特征[37], 其次是人的 DC 都不表达 CD8 α 。CD16⁺DC 与 CD1c⁺DC 均表达 TLR1、TLR2、TLR4、TLR5、TLR6、TLR8、TLR9 和 TLR10, CD1c⁺DC 还表达 TLR3 [38]。这两种 DC 亚群经 TLR 激动剂刺激后都能分泌 CXCL8 (IL-8)、TNF- α 、IL-6、CCL3 (MIP-1 α)、CCL4 (MIP-1 β)、IL-1 β , 其中 CD1c⁺DC 主要分泌 CXCL8 (IL-8), CD16⁺DC 分泌的 TNF- α 量远远超过 CD1c⁺DC [22]。CD16⁺DC 具有很强的促炎能力, 而 CD1c⁺DC 似乎主要诱导趋化作用。pDC 在

血液中循环,通过高内皮静脉进入淋巴器官[39]。pDC 不表达 CD11C,高表达 IL-3R α 链(CD123),还特异性表达 BDCA2 (CD303)、ILT7 和 BDCA4 (CD304) [40]。pDC 通过 TLR7 和(或) TLR9 识别病毒片段后被激活,分泌大量 I 型 IFN [39]。pDC 接触病毒后能诱导抗病毒 T 细胞免疫应答[41] [42],从而在抗病毒免疫中发挥重要作用。

探索各 DC 亚群在抗肿瘤免疫应答中的作用的研究主要集中于免疫原较强的黑色素瘤。CD141⁺DC、CD1c⁺DC、CD16⁺DC 和 pDC 都能摄取、加工可溶性黑色素瘤抗原,并向特异性 CD8⁺T 细胞交叉递呈处理后的抗原表位肽,从而激活 CTL 发挥抗肿瘤作用[27] [43] [44]。尽管摄取黑色素瘤抗原的能力弱于 CD141⁺DC、CD1c⁺DC 及 CD16⁺DC, pDC 能更有效地向 CD8⁺T 细胞交叉递呈源于黑色素瘤细胞裂解产物的抗原[47]。考虑到外周血中 pDC 的数量远远超过 CD141⁺DC,在交叉递呈肿瘤细胞来源的抗原时 pDC 至少拥有不弱于 CD141⁺DC 的能力。

3.4. 皮肤 DC 亚群

皮肤 DC 主要包括两个亚群:表皮朗格汉斯细胞(LC)和真皮 DC,真皮 DC 又分为两个亚群:CD1a⁺DC 和 CD14⁺DC [19]。朗格汉斯细胞以表达 CD1a 和 CD207 为特征,还表达 TLR1、TLR2、TLR3、TLR6 及 TLR10,通过分泌 IL-15 而有效地将 CD8⁺T 细胞活化成 CTL [20] [24] [26]。朗格汉斯细胞经 CD40-CD40L 通路活化后,仅分泌少量细胞因子,包括 IL-15 和 IL-8;朗格汉斯细胞倾向于诱导 CD4⁺T 细胞分泌 Th2 型细胞因子,但能有效地将 naïve CD8⁺T 细胞活化成 CTL [45]。CD14⁺DC 表达很多 C 型凝集素和 TLRs,前者包括 DC-SIGN、DEC205、LOX-1、CLEC-6 及 DCIR,后者主要是 TLR2、TLR4、TLR5、TLR6、TLR8 及 TLR10 [26]。CD14⁺DC 经 CD40-CD40L 通路活化后,分泌大量细胞因子,包括 IL-1 β 、IL-6、IL-8、IL-10、IL-12p40、GM-CSF、MCP-1 及 TNF- α [38]。CD14⁺DC 极化 naïve CD4⁺T 细胞向滤泡辅助性 T 细胞分化,后者诱导 naïve B 细胞发生表型转化并分化成浆细胞,从而促进体液免疫的发生[38]。CD1a⁺DC 表达 CD1c,其表型与朗格汉斯细胞接近,但不表达朗格汉斯细胞特征性分子 CD207 和 E-钙粘蛋白。CD1a⁺DC 激活 CD8⁺T 细胞的能力优于 CD14⁺DC 而弱于朗格汉斯细胞,经 CD40L 激活后分泌大量的 IL-15 和 IL-8 [38],与朗格汉斯细胞类似。CD1a⁺DC 可能是朗格汉斯细胞的前体细胞。表皮朗格汉斯细胞分泌的细胞因子主要是 IL-15 [38]。朗格汉斯细胞递呈可溶性黑色素瘤抗原的能力更强且能有效地促进抗黑色素瘤效应 CTL 产生[37] [38],CD14⁺DC 分泌 IL-10 和 TGF- β 抑制抗黑色素瘤效应 CTL 的形成[37]。

3.5. 炎性树突状细胞

在炎症时,机体内出现了一种新型 DC,即炎性 DC。炎性 DC 由募集到炎症部位的单核细胞分化而成[46],人的炎性 DC 首次发现于卵巢癌和乳腺癌患者的腹腔积液中,它们也出现于非肿瘤性炎性积液中 [32]。人的炎性 DC 表达 TLR1、TLR2、TLR3、TLR4、TLR5、TLR6、TLR7、TLR8、TLR9 及 TLR10,但不表达 DC-SIGN [32]。人的炎性 DC 通过分泌 IL-23 等细胞因子诱导自体记忆性 CD4⁺T 细胞及异基因 naïve CD4⁺T 细胞分化成 Th17 型细胞[20],Th17 型细胞在肿瘤免疫中兼具抗肿瘤与促肿瘤作用[47] [48] [49] [50]。

4. 结论

DC 的发现在免疫学发展史上具有划时代的意义,其发现者 Ralph Steinman 因此获得了 2011 年的诺贝尔生理学或医学奖。尽管探索 DC 免疫学功能的研究之路坎坷不平,在 DC 发现四十余年后人们对 DC 在免疫中发挥的作用有了深入的了解。目前,人们对 DC 在免疫原性较强的黑色素瘤等肿瘤中的作用有了一定的认识。然而,在肺癌等免疫原性差的肿瘤中,DC 在抗肿瘤免疫中发挥的作用尚不十分清晰。未

来的研究需要继续探索各种 DC 亚群在不同肿瘤免疫应答中的作用,这将有利于设计更有效的 DC 疫苗,为根治肿瘤带来希望。

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