







SYLVESTER

Comprehensive Cancer Center

Viral infections in stem cell transplantation:

Lessons learned from 20 years of single-cell research in CMV immunology

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Transplants by Recipient Age





Source: National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match FY 2014

The evolution of allogeneic SCT

Over the past 15 years:

- A major goal is to maximize T cell effects--less intense chemotherapy is often used
- Older patients are commonly transplanted (to 75 vs. 60)
- Peripheral blood (vs. marrow) is commonly used as a stem cell source
- I00-day mortality has decreased dramatically with nonmyeloablative or reduced-intensity conditioning
- More graft sources and donors (NMDP, worldwide registries)



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What hasn't changed much?

- Risk stratification for most diseases (e.g., acute myeloid leukemia, the primary indication for allo SCT) has evolved very little, despite the 'omics' revolution
- In most cases, we still infuse donor grafts as collected, without enrichment or manipulation of cell subsets
- Strategies to prevent and/or treat GVHD have not significantly evolved in over 25 years, despite many attempts and the advent of targeted and biologic therapies
- Beyond conditioning, no therapies have typically been used to reduce relapse risk



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Acute GVHD: Pathophysiology



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The NEW ENGLAND

JOURNAL of MEDICINE

GVHD and GVL/protective immunity are in balance



...so nonspecific T cell targeting is ineffective

Removal of T cells to decrease GVHD or

More aggressive immunosuppression

More Infections

Relapse





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T cells in allogeneic SCT: Good and Bad



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The goal: Eliminating GVHD while sparing beneficial T cells



Widely held assumptions about CMV immunity in 1997

- Pathogen-specific T cell responses could not rise above frequencies of 0.5-1% of the overall repertoire
- CMV reactivation most likely occurred in the absence of pathogen-specific T cells
- Steroids are lympholytic and therefore eliminate CMVspecific T cells from the circulation

20 years ago T cell measurements were semi-quantitative



Walter, Riddell, et al N Engl J Med 1995;333:1038-1044.

CMV reactivation still matters 2016 CIBMTR Infection Working Committee analysis

Early cytomegalovirus reactivation remains associated with increased transplant-related mortality in the current era: a CIBMTR analysis

Pierre Teira,^{1,*} Minoo Battiwalla,^{2,*} Muthalagu Ramanathan,^{3,*} A. John Barrett,^{2,*} Kwang Woo Ahn,^{4,5} Min Chen,⁴ Jaime S. Green,⁶ Ayman Saad,⁷ Joseph H. Antin,⁸ Bipin N. Savani,⁹ Hillard M. Lazarus,¹⁰ Matthew Seftel,¹¹ Wael Saber,⁴ David Marks,¹² Mahmoud Aljurf,¹³ Maxim Norkin,¹⁴ John R. Wingard,¹⁴ Caroline A. Lindemans,¹⁵ Michael Boeckh,¹⁶ Marcie L. Riches,¹⁷ and Jeffery J. Auletta¹⁸



Overall survival

Teira, et al., CIBMTR Infection & Immune Recovery WC, Blood 2016

The first description of immunologic memory

"the sick and the dying were tended by the pitying care of those who had recovered, because they knew the course of the disease and were themselves free from apprehensions. For *no one was ever attacked a second time, or not with a fatal result*"

Thucydides, 430 B.C.





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Measurement of Ag-specific CD8+T cells with tetramers





From R. Schwartz, NEJM 10/8/98 (original J.Exp. Med 187:9, 1998)



Komanduri, et al., Virology, 2001



Stability and reproducibility of CD4+ and CD8+ T cell responses to CMV.

Komanduri, et al., Virology, 2001

CMV Retinitis in a patient with AIDS

Slightly Less Ancient History



Komanduri, McCune, et al., Nat Medicine 4:153-7, 1998



Risk factors for late CMV reactivation in SCT

- 269 subjects transplanted 1998-2000 (alive at day 100)
- I44/269 with early reactivation (54%); 84 with late reactivation (31%)
- 65 of 144 (45%) with early reactivation had late reactivation;
 15 of 125 (15%) isolated late
- Multivariate analyses of subjects with early reactivation

Risk factors for late CMV reactivation



Figure 2

Ozdemir, Komanduri, et al., ASH, 2004

Late CMV reactivation: risk stratification



Quantitation of CMV-specific CD8+T cells in SCT recipients



2002 100: 3690-3697 Prepublished online July 5, 2002; doi:10.1182/blood-2002-05-1387

Cytomegalovirus reactivation following allogeneic stem cell transplantation is associated with the presence of dysfunctional antigen-specific CD8⁺ T cells

Evren Özdemir, Lisa S. St. John, Geraldine Gillespie, Sarah Rowland-Jones, Richard E. Champlin, Jeffrey J. Molldrem and Krishna V. Komanduri

Sampling vs. Reactivation



~Day +90 Increased CMV-specific CD8+T cells in patients with reactivation



Ozdemir, Komanduri et al., Blood, 2002

Sampling vs. Reactivation



~Day +90 Increased CMV-specific CD8+T cells in patients with early reactivation



Ozdemir, Komanduri et al., Blood, 2002

High frequencies of CMV-specific CD8+T cells in patients assessed proximate to CMV antigenemia (4/10 on day of sampling: 40.5%, 1.6%, 10.2%, 0.7%)



Ozdemir, Komanduri et al., *Blood*, 2002

Combined tetramer/cytokine flow cytometry analysis function within Ag-specific CD8+T cells



Dysfunction of CD8+T cells is associated with CMV reactivation



Dysfunction not number of CMV-specific CD8+T cells is associated with acute GVHD



Ozdemir, Komanduri et al., *Blood*, 2002

Dysfunction (not number) of CD8+T cells is associated with steroid use



Ozdemir, Komanduri et al., *Blood*, 2002

Sometimes the problem is quantitative (Double CBT recipient with multiple life-threatening infections)



de Lima and Komanduri, Br J Hematol 2002



2007 110: 4543-4551 Prepublished online Aug 1, 2007; doi:10.1182/blood-2007-05-092130

Delayed immune reconstitution after cord blood transplantation is characterized by impaired thymopoiesis and late memory T-cell skewing

Krishna V. Komanduri, Lisa S. St. John, Marcos de Lima, John McMannis, Steven Rosinski, Ian McNiece, Susan G. Bryan, Indreshpal Kaur, Sean Martin, Eric D. Wieder, Laura Worth, Laurence J. N. Cooper, Demetrios Petropoulos, Jeffrey J. Molldrem, Richard E. Champlin and Elizabeth J. Shpall

- CBT recipients have profound immune deficits, but few studies have detailed immune recovery
- I2/2007: Reported results of longitudinal immune recovery studies from a group of 32 subjects
- Section Last interim update in 2009 (47 patients)



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The thymus generates a naive T cell pool from which the memory repertoire is derived



Thymus

Thymopoiesis can be measured, and is impaired after adult CBT



Why bother looking again at CMV responses in 2017?

- Earlier studies were cross-sectional and not prospective
- Better understanding of function and better technology
- Looking at CD4+ and CD8+ responses to CMV pp65 and IE1, and at naive/memory/Tscm responses
- Looking at combinations of IL-2/IFN/TNF/MIP-Ibeta
- Correlating above more precisely with patterns of reactivation

Schema for sample collection for translational research



Patterns of CMV reactivation

- Three groups
 - Group I (EC): Elite Controller: at risk but never reactivated
 - Group 2 (SC) : Spontaneous control: reactivated but control w/o therapy
 - Group 3 (treated): reactivated and received anti-CMV therapy
- Here we report for the first time group I EC (n=10) and compare the results to groups 2 and 3 (n=8, 9)
- First day of reactivation:
 - Group 2: 3, 12, 14, 25, 33, 35, 60, 65 (median= 29)
 - Group 3: 1, 6, 13, 15, 22, 28, 32, 35, 37 (median = 22)



Longitudinal CD8+ response to CMV pp65 in one patient



Wieder, Komanduri et al., unpublished

What is the key to immunologic control of CMV?

- Differentiation status of responders? Tscm?
- Functional focusing of the response? Clonal diversity?
- Virological?
- Perhaps driven mostly by dysfunction? GVHD? Steroid?
- Lots of work ahead

Surface phenotypic markers identify naive and memory T cells



Adapted from McMichael AJ & Rowland-Jones SL, Nature 2001

CMV reactivation is associated with an abundance of late effector CD57+ CMV-specific CD8+ T cells



Ozdemir et al., ASH 2005





1V Reactivation on TCR Repertoire Exhaustion (PDI-/CD57+ CD8+T cells)

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Suessmuth, Kean et al., Blood Plenary Paper, 2016

Impact of CMV Reactivation on TCR Repertoire CMV-driven Exhaustion (Repertoire Skewing in TEM but not T_N cells)



Suessmuth, Kean et al., Blood Plenary Paper, 2016

Human CMV and other virus-specific T cells are highly differentiated



A Ime Journal of Immunology Human Late Memory CD8⁺ T Cells Have a Distinct Cytokine Signature Characterized by CC Chemokine Production without IL-2 Production Tae Kon Kim, Lisa S. St. John, Eric D. Wieder, Jahan Khalili, Qing Ma and Krishna V. Komanduri

J Immunol 2009; 183:6167-6174; Prepublished online 19 October 2009; doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.0902068 http://www.jimmunol.org/content/183/10/6167

TCR activation and the RAS/MEK/ERK pathway

CELL SIGNALING TECHNOLOGY

www.cellsignal.com

T Cell Receptor Signaling



T cell signaling differs in "naive" and more mature T cells



Plenary Paper

TRANSPLANTATION

BLOOD, 6 JUNE 2013 · VOLUME 121, NUMBER 23

MEK inhibitors selectively suppress alloreactivity and graft-versus-host disease in a memory stage-dependent manner

Takero Shindo,¹ Tae Kon Kim,¹ Cara L. Benjamin,¹ Eric D. Wieder,¹ Robert B. Levy,² and Krishna V. Komanduri^{1,2}





Comment on Shindo et al, page 4617

MEKing it easier to prevent GVHD

Paul J. Martin¹ ¹FRED HUTCHINSON CANCER RESEARCH CENTER



Selumetinib inhibits alloreactivity, is synergistic with tacrolimus



Plenary Paper

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MEK inhibition spares CMV-specific polyfunctional T cells





Trametinib also spares CMV immunity and inhibits GVHD in vivo



Itamura, Shindo, et al., JCI Insight 2016

Selective immunosuppression by MEK inhibition

- MEK inhibition may selectively target alloreactivity while sparing pathogen-specific immunity (CMV, EBV-specific T cells)
- Evidence of a class effect and potential synergy with CNI
- Immune recovery may be protected via more selective inhibition
- RAS/MEK/ERK signaling also important in some cancers (relapse?)



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What have we learned from 20 years of CMV immunology?

- Pathogen-specific T cell responses could not rise above frequencies of 0.5-1% of the overall repertoire
 - Not true (routinely massively expanded in healthy and in patients)
- CMV reactivation most likely occurred in the absence of pathogenspecific T cells
 - True after CBT and TCD, but not in most SCT recipients
- Steroids are lympholytic and therefore eliminate CMV-specific T cells from the circulation
 - Not true (biggest issue is dysfunction of T cell responses)

A key challenge will be to develop better and more selective immunosuppression to facilitate pathogen-specific immune recovery

The goal: Eliminating GVHD while sparing beneficial T cells



Acknowledgments

Komanduri Lab @ UM Cara Benjamin Takero Shindo Tae Kon Kim Eric Wieder Despina Kolonias Dietlinde Wolf

> (@MDACC) Evren Ozdemir Lisa St. John

UM Robert Levy Eckhard Podack MDACC

Rima Saliba Richard Champlin

UCSF Mike McCune

Funding Sources

Leukemia Lymphoma Society TRP NCI RO1 CA109326 NHLBI RO1 HL091749 Florida Bankhead Coley Foundation Sylvester Cancer Center Kalish Family Foundation

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