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Opinion Article

Immature Immune Response at Birth Especially in Preterm Infants

Francesca Cortese*

Department of Neonatal Pediatrics, University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia

DESCRIPTION

Newborns face a variety of antigenic obstacles in their early years, including infections, commensals, and harmless environmental antigens. Neonatal survival depends on innate immunity in the face of an unskilled adaptive immune system. Neonatal are still more susceptible to infections, sepsis, brain injury, and neurodevelopmental abnormalities because to deficiencies in innate immune cell activities caused by cell-intrinsic hyperresponsiveness and increased activation of immunosuppressive, tissue-protective mechanisms. Neonatal immune responses are also significantly influenced by rapidly altering postnatal exposures to the environment and microbes, as well as by epigenetic reprogramming and innate immunological memory. The particular physiological and molecular pathways behind faulty newborn innate immunity are still poorly understood, despite tremendous scientific advancement.

They outline the differences between newborn innate immune responses and the most recent developments in characterizing the phenotypic and roles of these cells. They concentrate on reporting on human cells because there isn't enough room to get into the broad sequence of investigations on animals. They also give a general summary of the impact of the metabolome, epigenetics, and microbiome on the regulation of newborn innate immunity. Additionally discussed are the immunological mechanisms behind infections, head trauma, and neurodevelopmental problems. Finally, They talk about potential future research lines that could improve neonatal host protection by focusing on innate immune responses.

Through their phagocytic, antigen-presenting, and cytokine-secreting capacities, monocytes are essential for the identification and eradication of pathogens. Low amounts of HLA-DR and CD80 are expressed by neonatal monocytes, which impair the presentation of pathogen-derived molecules as well as other antigens. They also exhibit lower membrane attack complex-1 and L-selectin expression, which inhibits adherence and infiltration to inflammatory regions. Interestingly, stimulation with LPS increases TLR4 expression as well as TNF-, IL-6, and IL-10 secretion by neonatal macrophages. However, downstream TLR4 signaling pathways are compromised as shown by decreased phosphorylation of NF-p65 and p38, which may explain the overall decreased cytokine responses as compared to adult cells. Additionally, the nucleotide-binding domain and leucine-rich repeat containing protein 3 inflammasomes are less activated in newborn monocytes.

Low levels of caspase-1 actually cause a decrease in pyroptosis and a decrease in the release of active IL-1 after NLRP3 stimulation. The anti-apoptotic protein B-cell Lymphoma 2 (Bcl-2) is expressed at higher levels by newborn monocytes, which inhibits the natural end of their responses and can worsen inflammatory processes. Additional research has demonstrated that macrophages create large amounts of migration inhibitory factor, which promotes the activation of the Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase (MAPK) and may cause an overproduction of cytokines during sepsis.

Neonatal macrophages exhibit more cytoplasmic vacuolization and lessened expression of CD11b, CD14, and F4/80 compared to their adult counterparts. Nonetheless, they generate large levels of IL-6 and CCL2/3/4 in response to pathogen contact. The higher IL-6/TNF- ratio in neonatal peripheral blood as indicated above may be responsible for the decreased neutrophilic migration to inflammatory tissue locations given the inhibitory effects of IL-6 on neutrophil responses. Neonatal macrophage phagocytic responses are comparable to adult phagocytic responses.

These investigations show that neonatal DCs and monocytes/macrophages have decreased antigen-presenting abilities, cytokine production, and T cell stimulatory capacities following pathogen interaction, a characteristic that makes newborns particularly susceptible to infections. Future research should further investigate these clinically significant problems because it is still unclear if the aforementioned deficiencies are brought on by the endogenous immunosuppressive mechanisms being activated, the neonatal innate immune system's inherent immaturity or both.

Correspondence to: Francesca Cortese, Department of Neonatal Pediatrics, University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia, E-mail: frances@5123.au

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