

POSTER PRESENTATION

Open Access

Investigation of Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE) of SARS coronavirus infection and its role in pathogenesis of SARS

Ming S Yip^{1*}, Chung Y Cheung², Ping H Li¹, Roberto Bruzzone¹, JS Malik Peiris^{1,2}, Martial Jaume¹

From Institut Pasteur International Network Annual Scientific Meeting
Hong Kong. 22-23 November 2010

Antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) is a mechanism by which viruses, such as dengue, HIV and Ebola, gain entry into some target cells through the use of host anti-viral humoral immune responses [1]. Here, we studied the ability of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) [2] to use ADE mechanisms to enhance its infectivity towards cells of the hematopoietic lineage.

We found that heat-inactivated immune serum from rodents vaccinated with recombinant native full-length Spike protein trimers [3] triggered infection of human immune cells (monocytic and B cell lines) by SARS-CoV Spike pseudotyped particle (SARS-CoVpp). The occurrence of antibody-mediated infection of human Raji B cells was further investigated by using live SARS-CoV. Similarly to results obtained with the SARS-CoVpp, only anti-SARS-CoV Spike serum, but not mock immune-serum, induced a massive increase of SARS-CoV viral genes (ORF1b and Nucleocapsid) and viral proteins (Membrane and Nucleocapsid) in Raji B cells. As revealed by immunostaining, only a relatively low, however significant percentage of the Raji cells get infected by antibody-mediated infection and did not allow direct assessment of productive replication by conventional cytopathic assays and TCID50 titration.

Taken together, our data suggested that SARS-CoV is able to enter human immune cells via an antibody-mediated pathway and immunological consequences of such infection are under investigation (productive replication, cytokines secretion profile and cell death etc). Our data raise reasonable concerns regarding the use of SARS-CoV vaccine in humans and pave the way to further studies focusing on the role of

immune-mediated infection phenomenon during SARS pathogenesis.

Author details

¹HKU-Pasteur Research Centre, Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR. ²Department of Microbiology, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR.

Published: 10 January 2011

References

1. Takada A, Kawaoka Y: Antibody-dependent enhancement of viral infection: molecular mechanisms and in vivo implications. *Rev Med Virol* 2003, **13**:387-398.
2. Du L, He Y, Zhou Y, Liu S, Zheng BJ, Jiang S: The spike protein of SARS-CoV-a target for vaccine and therapeutic development. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 2009, **3**:226-236.
3. Kam YW, Kien F, Roberts A, Cheung YC, Lamirande EW, Vogel L, Chu SL, Tse J, Guarner J, Zaki SR, Subbarao K, Peiris M, Nal B, Altmeyer R: Antibodies against trimeric S glycoprotein protect hamsters against SARS-CoV challenge despite their capacity to mediate FcγRIII-dependent entry into B cells in vitro. *Vaccine* 2007, **25**:729-740.

doi:10.1002/rmv.405

Cite this article as: Yip et al.: Investigation of Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE) of SARS coronavirus infection and its role in pathogenesis of SARS. *BMC Proceedings* 2011 **5**(Suppl 1):P80.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central
and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit



* Correspondence: simonmys@hkusua.hku.hk

¹HKU-Pasteur Research Centre, Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article