# Immunology of the skin

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## **Immune reactions**

- Specific vs. Non- specific
- Cellular immunity ( against viruses, mycotic elem., IC bacteria, cancer, GvH reaction, Cellmediated reaction )
- vs. Humoral (EC bacteria, some viruses, toxins)

## **Cellular immunity**

- Non-specific:
  - fagocyting cells, NK cells, keratinocytes, mast cells, fibroblasts...
- Specific:
  - \* T-lymphocytes, APC

## Humoral immunity

- Non- specific:
  - complement system, proteins of acute reaction
- Specific:
  - antibodies produced by B- lymphocytes

## SIS (skin immune system)

# Functional unit - epidermis, dermis, blood vessels, lymphatics, lymph nodes



## SIS

#### Cells - Keratinocytes

- Langerhans cells
- dermal denritic cells
- fibroblasts
- Lymphocytes
- Macrophages
- Granulocytes
- Mast cells



All units of SIS cooperate x redundant
Communication : selectins, integrins, cytokines

## Cytokines

- Polypeptides
- Changes in cellular proliferation, differentiation, migration
- Stimulate imunoglobulins and cellular immunity
- Specific receptors
- Pleotropic effect

# **Cytokines-5 groups**

- # 1. interleukins:
  - \* Leukocytes ( lymfokiny, monokiny)
- \* 2. interferons  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ :
  - \* Antivirotic
  - Synthesis of Ig by B-lymphocytes, activate macrophages, NK cells, lymphocytes-T
  - ∗ Antiproliferative → cytostatic/cid against tumours

# Cytokines – 5 groups

- \* 3. chemokins:
  - \* Induce inflammation ( eg. IL 8)
  - \* Chemotaxes
  - \* Physiological migration of leukocytes
- \* 4. Colony stimulating factors (CSF):
  - Prolifer. of specific pluripotent cells of bone marrow in adults
  - \* Granulocytic vs. Macrofages

# **Cytokines – 5 groups:**

- \* 5. tumor necrosis factor (TNF):
  - \* TNFα (kachektin)
    - \* Growth f., interleukins
  - \* TNF  $\beta$  (lymfoxin)
    - \* Cytotoxic

 effects: support cellular, humoral imm., proinflammatory, regulation of hematopoesis, cell proliferation, differentiation, healing wounds

## **Other mediators:**

- Neuropeptides (substance P)
- Eikosanoidy allergic reactions, inflammation

# **Physiological reactions:**

- Elimination of extracorporal and bodie's "damaged" structures
- Phases: aferent, amplification, effector
- Damage of skin → non- spec. immume reaction = acute inflammation
  - keratinocytes, complement sys., fagocyt. cells ( polymorfonuclears, macrophages), NK, mast cells, cytokins, activation of lysosomal enzymes,....

→fagocytosis / cytolysis of most of patogens
Rest activate SPECIFIC immune system

#### Specific :

- \* T+B lymphocytes
- \* APC (Langerhans cells, dermal denritic cells, macrophages, keratinocytes), fagocytes, cytokines, complement
- \* HLA compatibility between APC and lymphocytes

## **Immunological reaction**

In the skin- swallow of antigen by APC → to the sentinel lymph node → remodelation of "naive" T-lymphocyte to "memory" T-cell →



# → differentiation to cytotoxic (CD 8+) and helper (CD4+) → subpop. Th1 (supress Ig) and Th2 ( support Ig)



 Activation of B-lymfocyte → differentiate to plasmocytes → produce Ig ( IgM)

# Immunological memory

- Memmory T and B lymphocytes
- Secondary immune reaction
- Effector cells and Ig (mainly IgG)- more, quicker reaction, longer

## Homing

• Sensitized T cells return to the skin

## **Pathological immune reactions**

- Immunodeficiency insufficiency
- Autoimmune deseases bad tolerance
- Allergies
  - \* Intensified defensive reaction
  - \* Alergens, haptens
  - \* Harmful
  - \* 80% of allergies- on skin and mucosae

## Allergies : division Coombse-Gell- IV types:

- Type I: immediate hypersensitivity reaction (mediated by IgE and mast cells)
- Type II: Humoral cytotoxic reaction (mediated by IgG, IgM, C)
- Type III: Immune complex reaction (mediated by IgG, IgM, IgA and C)
- Type IV: Cell-mediated reaction (lymphocytes, lymphokines)

## Type I: immediate hypersensitivity r. (mediated by IgE and mast cells)

- Seconds to minutes (x latent -hours- mites)
- Anaphylaxis , Angioedema
- Urticaria
- Atopy
- Sting
- allergy to food



## Type II: Humoral cytotoxic reaction (mediated by IgG, IgM, C)

- Complement/ antibody mediated cytolysis
- \* 6 hours
- Hemolysis in newborns, hemolytical anemia, purpura, pemphigus vulgaris,pemfigoid bullosus, DHD, .....



## Type III: Immune complex reaction (mediated by IgG, IgM, IgA and C)

- 6-12 hours
- Vasculitis subpapilar, periadnexal vessels
- SLE, erythema nodosum, EEM, DHD- cytotox type
- Arthus reaction localised variant ( eg. Insulin)



### T. IV: Cell-mediated r.(lymphocytes, lymphokines)

- ∗ sensitised T cells → antigen specific receptors
- Effector- macrophages
- delayed hypersensitivity 7 days –refractory phase after 1st contact, 24-72 hours after 2nd...n contact
- intracellular microorganisms eg. TBC- tuberkulin r., viruses, mykotic, parazites, cancer
- allergic contact dermatitis





#### Langerhans cell