

IL-10 and trichosanthin inhibited surface molecule expression of antigen processing cells and T-cell proliferation¹

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KEY WORDS interleukin-10; trichosanthin; antigen-presenting cells; T-lymphocytes; cell division; surface antigens; messenger RNA

ABSTRACT

AIM: To study immunoinhibitory effects and preliminary mechanism of IL-10 and trichosanthin.

METHODS: Surface molecule expression on antigen processing cells (APC) was stained with fluorescence and analyzed by FACSscan. B7-1 mRNA expression was detected with nested RT-PCR.

RESULTS: IL-10 2 mg·L⁻¹ and trichosanthin 10 mg·L⁻¹ inhibited B7-1 molecule expression. By contrast, they had not the same effects on ICAM-1. IL-10 and trichosanthin down-regulated LFA-1 expression, but had no regulatory effect on CD40. IL-10 and trichosanthin dramatically inhibited T-cell proliferation and IL-2 production. B7-1 mRNA expression was undetectable in APC treated with IL-10 and trichosanthin.

CONCLUSION: IL-10 and trichosanthin inhibit surface molecule expression on APC. They exert multiple immunoinhibitory effects.

INTRODUCTION

Antigen processing cells (APC) intake extracellular antigens, process them, and form immune

peptides. The immune peptides combined with major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class II molecule are presented to T-cells by APC. Many surface molecules on APC interacting with counter-receptors on T-cells provide cellular adhesion and costimulation, which is required for T-cell activation. APC can express many surface molecules, including MHC class I and II molecules, adhesive and costimulatory molecules, etc^[1,2]. These surface molecules on APC play an important role in immunoresponse. IL-10 is an immunosuppressor cytokine produced by a variety of cells. It exerts a crucial role in immunoregulation via controlling the balance between T_H1 and T_H2 cells. IL-10 inhibited antigen presentation by down-regulation B7 expression on APC^[3]. Trichosanthin is an effector drug extracted from the root tuber of *Trichosanthes kirilowii* Maxim, which has been used to treat chorio carcinomas and as an abortifacient. Trichosanthin had an antiviral activity and inhibited HIV replication, and improved the symptoms of AIDS^[4,5].

This study was to investigate the immunoinhibitory effects of IL-10 and trichosanthin and their preliminary mechanisms, which will provide theoretical evidence for their clinical applications.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials Peripheral blood of healthy volunteers was provided by Shanghai Blood Center; CTLL-2 cell line and EBV-transformed B cell line were stored by our laboratory.

Reagents Tetanus toxoid (TT) was provided by Prof YE Min in Shanghai Institute of Cell Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences; B7-1 mAb (BB1), ICAM-1mAb (H616), LFA-1mAb (CD11 : T_s1/22), and CD40mAb (G28-5) were kindly provided by Dr CA Clark (USA); IL-10 (Genzyme), trichosanthin was provided by Dr HONG Jian; FITC-conjugated

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goat-anti-mouse Ig (HuaMei Co); AET (Sigma); PWM, Trizol kit, RT-PCR kit (Gibco).

APC and T-cell isolation SRBC was treated by AET $0.14 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ at the ratio of (5 - 10) : 1, incubating at 37°C for 20 min. Cells were washed, prepared for 2 % SRBC solution. PBMC freshly isolated by Ficoll-Paque was mixed with 2 % SRBC, incubated at 0°C for 1 h, then separated APC and T-cells with Ficoll-Paque. The upper layer was APC, the bottom was T-cells and SRBC. T-cells were isolated by lysing SRBC.

Flow cytometry APC or EBV-transformed B cells were added in 24-well tissue plate (1×10^6 /well) and treated respectively with IL-10 ($2 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$), trichosanthin ($10 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) at 37°C for 24 h. APC were harvested, washed with PBS, and incubated in 5 % FCS RPMI 1640 at 4°C for 1 h with the following murine mAb: B7-1 mAb, ICAM-1 mAb, LFA-1 mAb, CD40 mAb. Cells were washed and stained with FITC-conjugated goat-anti-mouse Ig. Samples were analyzed by FACScan (Becton Dickinson).

Detection of T-cell proliferation and IL-2 activity T-cells mixed with APC treated with TT antigen plus IL-10 ($2 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) or trichosanthin ($10 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$). Cultured at 37°C for 5 d, cell proliferation was assayed by uptake of [^3H]thymidine. For the last 16 h, at the end of the culture, the cells were harvested and [^3H]thymidine incorporation was measured. Culture supernatants were collected for IL-2 detection using biological activity method with CTLL-2 cell line.

Analysis of B7-1 mRNA expression with nested RT-PCR APC or EBV-transformed B-cells (5×10^6 /well) were treated with IL-10 or trichosanthin at 37°C for 24 h, 48 h, 72 h. Then cells were harvested and washed. Total RNA was isolated by Trizol kit. Single-strand cDNA was synthesized using P4 as a primer and PCR was performed as described^[6], with the following primers:

P1 133-161 (5'-CCACAAGCTTTGGAGACCCAGGAACACCC-3'), P2 59-79 (5'-GTGGAGTCGTACCCTGAAATC-3'), P3 1249-1281 (3'-GGAAGAATTCCTCATGATCCCCACGATCCCATG-5'), P4 1358-1379 (3'-AGGAGAGGGATGCCAGCCATCC-5').

RESULTS

Effects of IL-10 and trichosanthin on B7-1

and ICAM-1 expression of APC IL-10 and trichosanthin inhibited B7-1 expression on APC (Fig 1A). IL-10 and trichosanthin had no evident influence on ICAM-1 molecule (Fig 1B).

Effects of IL-10 and trichosanthin on LFA-1 and CD40 expression of APC IL-10 and trichosanthin had no significant regulatory role in CD40 expression (Fig 1C); By contrast, IL-10 and trichosanthin down-regulated LFA-1 molecules (Fig 1D).

Inhibitory role of IL-10 and trichosanthin in T-cell proliferation and IL-2 production IL-10 and trichosanthin dramatically suppressed TT-induced T-cell proliferation ($P < 0.01$) and IL-2 production ($P < 0.01$) (Tab 1).

Tab 1. Influence of IL-10 and trichosanthin on T-cell proliferation and IL-2 production induced by TT antigen. $n=6$. $\bar{x} \pm s$. $^c P < 0.01$ vs TT control.

Group	T-cell proliferation/Bq per well	IL-2/ $\text{kU} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$
TT control	1498 ± 59	193 ± 21
IL-10	106 ± 9 ^c	34 ± 5 ^c
Trichosanthin	77 ± 6 ^c	37 ± 6 ^c
T cell control	21 ± 5	24 ± 4

Effect of IL-10 and trichosanthin on B7-1 mRNA expression in APC Freshly isolated APC expressed B7-1 mRNA, PWM and IL-2 enhanced B7-1 mRNA expression. B7-1 mRNA in APC treated by IL-10 and trichosanthin were undetectable. B7-1 mRNA was expressed at peak level for 24 h, and was detectable at 72 h in APC stimulated by PWM and IL-2 (Fig 2).

DISCUSSION

APC, as an immune competent cell, plays an important role in immune response. APC uptake antigens, process them and present them to the surface of APC via binding with MHC class II molecules. APC can express a variety of surface molecules, including MHC I, II, adhesive and costimulatory molecules, etc. T-cell activation requires two signals,

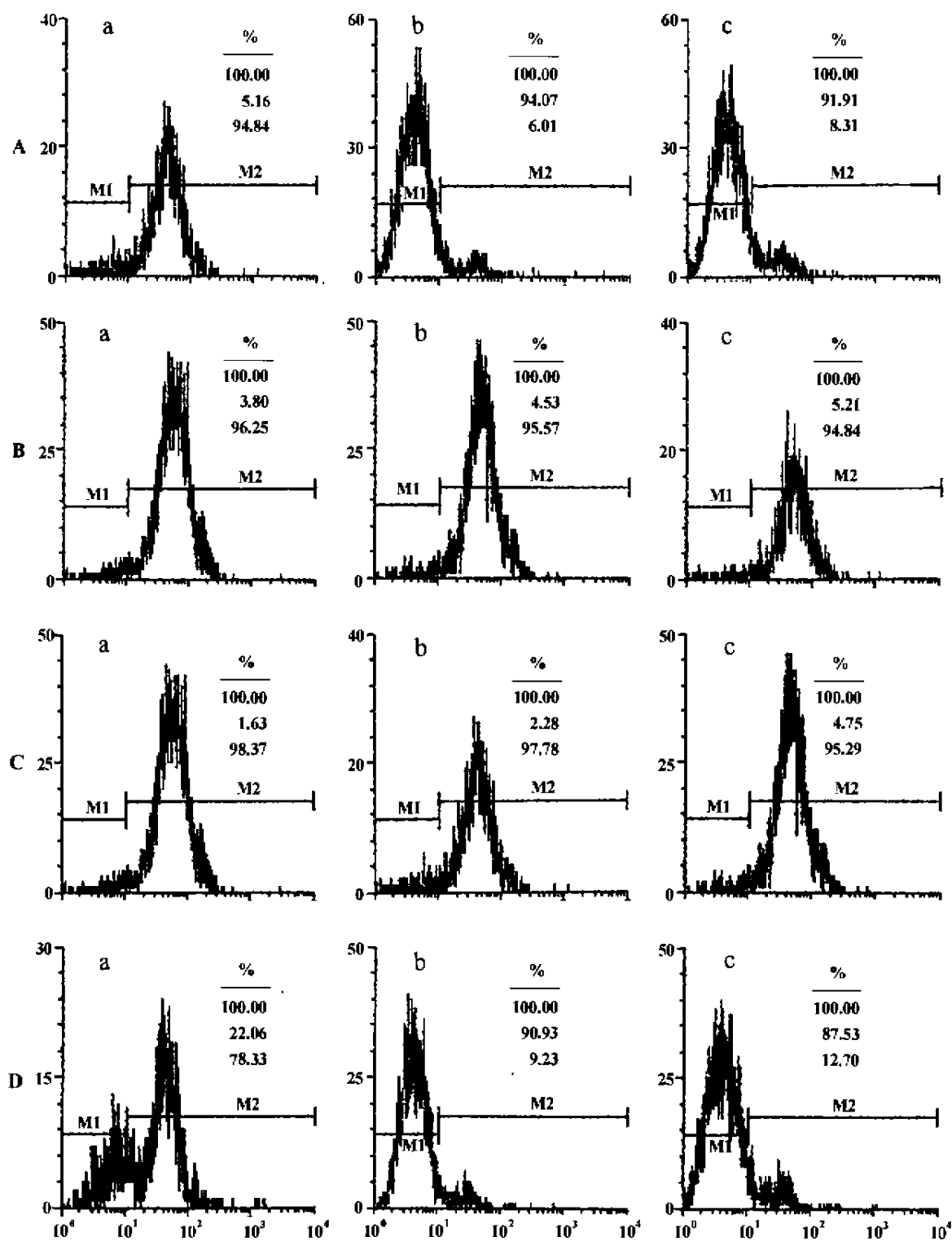


Fig 1. Effects of IL-10 and trichosanthin on B7-1 (A), ICAM-1 (B), CD40 (C), and LFA-1 (D) expression in EBV-transformed B-cells. X axis represents fluorescence. Y axis represents relative cell number. (a) EBV-transformed B cells; (b) IL-10; (c) trichosanthin.



Fig 2. Effects of IL-10 and trichosanthin on B7-1 mRNA expression dynamics in EBV-transformed B-cells. 1) IL-10, 2) PWM, 3) trichosanthin, 4) TT control, 5) EBV-transformed B-cells control.

antigenic and costimulatory signals. Costimulatory signals were provided by APC. Therefore, APC exert a crucial role in T-cell activation. Elevated expression of some surface molecules on APC were closely related to the pathogenesis of some autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis^[7,8]. Antigenic stimulation can lead to a state of unresponsiveness without appropriate costimulatory signals provided by APC^[9]. IL-10 is a potent inhibitory cytokine, it can interfere with antigen presentation by inhibiting expression of some molecules. IL-10 showed a satisfactory therapeutic effect on some animal models of autoimmune diseases as a potent inhibitor^[10]. There was evidence that trichosanthin inhibited murine and human lymphocyte proliferation^[11]. This study was to elucidate the role of IL-10 and trichosanthin in surface molecule expression on APC and to understand their immunoinhibitory mechanisms.

ICAM-1 and LFA-1 can express on APC and T-cells, which exert both adhesive and costimulatory role during interaction between APC and T-cells^[12]. IL-10 and trichosanthin had no evident effect on ICAM-1 expression, but they inhibited LFA-1 molecules. CD40 expresses on APC and belongs to the superfamily of TNF-R. Its receptor is CD40L. CD40/CD40L costimulation participates in B-cell activation and antibody secretion. Blockade of CD40/CD40L pathway can lead to B-cell anergy^[2]. IL-10 and trichosanthin had no regulatory effect on CD40, which

suggested that IL-10 and trichosanthin may not interfere with CD40/CD40L costimulation.

IL-10 and trichosanthin significantly inhibited B7-1 molecule expression on APC. B7-1 mRNA in APC treated with IL-10 and trichosanthin were undetectable. It indicated that IL-10 and trichosanthin could interfere with B7/CD28 costimulation. Their inhibitory effects derived from gene transcription. B7/CD28 costimulation is a major costimulatory pathway in interaction between APC and T-cell. Blocking B7/CD28 costimulation can lead to T-cell anergy. Its function *in vivo* was confirmed by CD28 gene knock-out mice^[13]. Blockade of B7/CD28 *in vivo* can promote symptoms of some autoimmune diseases and prevent transplantation rejection^[14,15]. In conclusion, IL-10 and trichosanthin significantly suppressed B7-1 expression, T-cell proliferation, and IL-2 production as well. They had multiple inhibitory effects.

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白细胞介素-10和天花粉蛋白抑制抗原提呈细胞表面分子表达及T-细胞增殖

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关键词 白细胞介素-10; 天花粉蛋白; 抗原提呈细胞; T-淋巴细胞; 细胞分裂; 表面抗原; 信使 RNA

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目的: 探明 IL-10 和天花粉蛋白的免疫抑制作用, 为其临床应用提供理论依据。方法: APC 表面分子经荧光染色用 FACS 分析结果, 用³H-TdR 掺入法测定 T-细胞增殖, 巢式 RT-PCR 检测 B7-1 mRNA 的表达。结果: IL-10 和天花粉蛋白均能显著抑制 B7-1 分子的表达, 两者对 ICAM-1 的表达未显示抑制作用。IL-10 和天花粉蛋白对 CD40 的表达未见影响, 但皆抑制 LFA-1 的表达。IL-10 和天花粉蛋白处理过的 APC 未检测到 B7-1 mRNA 的表达。IL-10 和天花粉蛋白都能抑制 T-细胞的增殖($P < 0.01$)和 IL-2 的产生($P < 0.01$)。结论: IL-10 和天花粉蛋白抑制 APC 多种表面分子表达并抑制 T-细胞增殖。

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