

• 综述 •

3型天然淋巴细胞在肠道屏障中的作用

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【摘要】 肠道屏障是机体抵御病原体入侵的重要防线,对维持机体肠道局部及全身稳态有重要意义。重症全身性疾病可导致肠道屏障受损,肠道屏障损伤除可引发多种胃肠道疾病外,还可恶化重症全身性患者的疾病进程。天然淋巴细胞(ILCs)是一类新发现的具有适应性免疫细胞特征的固有免疫细胞,其中3型天然淋巴细胞(ILC3)主要分布于肠道黏膜组织,在维护肠道屏障功能中起着重要作用。本文通过综述ILC3的起源、分类及功能,重点聚焦ILC3在维护肠道屏障功能中的作用,为病理状态下维持肠道屏障功能提供新的理论基础。

【关键词】 肠道屏障; 3型天然淋巴细胞; 肠道免疫

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Role of group 3 innate lymphoid cells in intestinal barrier

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【Abstract】 Intestinal barrier act as the crucial defender against pathogen invasion, and is indispensable in maintaining tissue homeostasis both locally and systemically. Severe disease can lead to impaired intestinal barrier. In addition to cause a variety of gastrointestinal diseases, intestinal barrier damage can also worsen the disease progression in critically ill patients. Innate lymphoid cells (ILCs) is a group of newly defined innate immune cells which have some characteristics as adaptive immune cells. Group 3 innate lymphoid cells (ILC3), which mainly reside at gut associate mucosal tissue, have been reported to play a critical role in maintaining intestinal barrier function. After a brief introduction about its origination and classification, we will focus on function of ILC3 physiologically and pathologically, and provide a new theoretical basis for maintaining intestinal barrier function under pathological conditions in this review.

【Key words】 Intestinal barrier; Group 3 innate lymphoid cell; Intestinal immunity

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肠道既是机体营养吸收的主要器官,也是机体最大的黏膜免疫器官,是抵御病原体入侵的重要防线。肠道屏障的缺陷与炎症性肠病、乳糜泻等众多胃肠疾病相关^[1];严重病理情况下,如脓毒症、创伤等,也可导致肠道屏障损伤,恶化疾病结局^[2-3]。肠道屏障对维持机体肠道局部及全身的稳态有着重要作用。肠道作为重要的免疫器官,其新的细胞生理功能逐渐被研究者发现。肠道屏障的形成与维持是微生物、多种细胞参与的复杂生理过程。新近研究表明,天然淋巴细胞(ILCs)在维持正常黏膜组织稳态中起着不可忽视的作用^[4-5]。但有研究显示,主要在肠道大量聚集的3型天然淋巴细胞(ILC3)在维护肠道屏障功能中具有重要作用^[6-7]。现通过综述ILC3的起源、分类及功能,重点聚焦ILC3在维护肠道屏障功能中的作用,为病理状态下维持肠道屏障功能

提供新的理论基础。

1 ILC3的起源、分类及功能

1.1 ILCs简介: ILCs隶属于组织内固有淋巴细胞家族,其所介导的固有免疫应答是机体抵御各种病原微生物的第一道防线,在抗微生物感染中发挥重要作用。近年来研究显示,ILCs在组织稳态、免疫和炎症中具有重要意义^[4-5, 8]。ILCs缺乏T、B淋巴细胞抗原受体,但基于其拥有的细胞毒活性、分泌的细胞因子及分化过程中表达转录因子的不同,ILCs可分为自然杀伤性ILCs和辅助性ILCs两大亚群,后者又包括ILC1、ILC2和ILC3等3个亚群^[9]。

在表达转录因子和细胞因子方面,ILCs与CD4⁺辅助性T细胞(Th)存在镜像关系:与Th1类似,ILC1表达转录因子T-Bet,分泌γ-干扰素(IFN-γ)和肿瘤坏死因子-α

(TNF- α),并介导对细胞内病原体和肿瘤的免疫应答。ILC2与Th2相同,表达转录因子GATA结合蛋白3(GATA-3),产生白细胞介素-5(IL-5)、IL-9和IL-13等细胞因子,主要参与蠕虫的免疫应答,以及包括哮喘和特应性皮炎等在内的2型炎症性疾病。而ILC3则与Th17相近,表达转录因子维甲酸相关孤儿受体 γ t(ROR γ t),并产生IL-17A、IL-17F、IL-22、IFN- γ 及粒-巨噬细胞集落刺激因子(GM-CSF)等细胞因子,在防御胃肠道感染和维持肠道黏膜内稳态中发挥重要作用^[10]。

1.2 ILC3的起源及分化过程:在淋巴细胞发育期间,多能造血干细胞(HSC)逐渐失去分化成红系和髓系前体的潜能,产生共同淋巴祖细胞(CLPs)^[11]。与传统淋巴细胞如B、T淋巴细胞及自然杀伤细胞(NK细胞)一样,所有辅助性ILCs亚群都来源于CLPs^[12-13]。随后,失去分化为T、B淋巴细胞潜能的CLPs,在IL-7的刺激下,不同程度地表达DNA结合蛋白转录因子抑制剂(Id2)、T细胞因子1(TCF-1)、胸腺细胞选择相关的高迁移率族蛋白(Tox)及转录因子核因子IL-3(Nfil3)等转录因子,分化为共同辅助ILC祖细胞(CHILP)^[14-15]。此后,获得转录因子早幼粒细胞白血病锌指(PLZF)表达的CHILP进一步分化为ILC祖细胞(ILCP),后者高表达表面分子程序性死亡蛋白-1(PD-1)。而PLZF-CHILP则分化为淋巴组织诱导细胞前体(LTiP)。与ILCP不同的是,LTiP特征性表达趋化因子受体CCR6和CXCR5,但两者均表达整合素 $\alpha 4\beta 7$ 。最后,在不同转录因子驱动下,ILCP可分化为ILC1、ILC2及NCR $^+$ ILC3,而LTiP则分化为LTi-ILC3^[10]。

1.3 ILC3的亚群及功能:依据发育时间的先后,ILC3可分为胎儿淋巴组织诱导(LTi)细胞和出生后ILC3^[16]。胎儿LTi细胞是诱导胎儿期间的淋巴结和派氏淋巴结发育及形成的重要成分^[17-19]。出生后的成熟ILC3可进一步细分为至少两个主要亚群:第一个亚群以表达天然细胞毒性受体(NCR)为特征,即NCR $^+$ ILC3,在小鼠主要是NKp46 $^+$ ILC3,在人类则为NKp44 $^+$ ILC3。另一个亚群则以表达趋化因子受体CCR6为特征,即CCR6 $^+$ ILC3,因其表型与LTi细胞相似,因此又被称为LTi-like ILC3^[16]。在肠道,NCR $^+$ ILC3主要位于小肠固有层,而LTi-like ILC3在结肠及淋巴组织较为常见。ILC3解剖部位分布的差异预示着各自功能的区别。LTi-like ILC3表达多个趋化分子,参与肠道固有层中隐窝斑和孤立淋巴滤泡的形成^[20-21]以及感染后损伤淋巴结的修复^[22],并可直接或间接调节适应性免疫应答^[23]。相比之下,虽然NCR $^+$ ILC3调节适应性免疫应答的能力要弱很多,但其可感知肠道多种信号,与组织中髓系细胞和上皮细胞群体相互作用,发挥直接抗炎、抗感染作用^[10, 23]。此外,ILC3是稳态条件下IL-22的主要来源,后者促进肠道上皮细胞更新、修复及上皮岩藻糖基化^[24-25],维持肠道上皮完整性和共生菌稳态。由此可见,ILC3对于维持肠道屏障功能至关重要。

2 ILC3在肠道屏障中的作用

肠道屏障是多层系统,从肠腔向外依次由微生物层、黏液层、上皮细胞层及免疫细胞层组成^[1, 26]。作为肠道黏膜免疫的重要一员,在生理稳态下,ILC3可维护肠上皮及黏液完整性,促进肠免疫系统的发育和完善,诱导适应性免疫耐受,维持肠道共生菌稳态,抵御病原体入侵;若ILC3调控异常,则可促进适应性免疫应答,诱导菌群失调,导致肠道病理损伤。

2.1 ILC3在肠道屏障微生物层中的作用:健康者肠道内存有约 1×10^{14} 个、至少2000多种微生物,既有细菌,也存在真菌、病毒和噬菌体,它们以共生的方式与人体相互作用。肠道共生菌不仅帮助机体从食物中吸收营养,也能合成氨基酸、维生素及抗生素供机体使用,并可将毒素代谢,减少对机体的损害;此外,还可通过直接抑制、营养竞争以及刺激并调节肠道免疫等多种机制对外源性致病菌形成定植抗力,防止感染发生^[26]。ILC3与肠道微生物相互影响,共同维持肠道内稳态。

2.1.1 ILC3在维持肠道共生菌稳态中的作用:生理情况下,共生菌定植后可诱导ILC3产生IL-22,后者促进肠上皮细胞相关碳水化合物链的岩藻糖基化。岩藻糖作为覆盖蛋白质和脂质聚糖的丰富组分,位于面向内腔的上皮表面,是多种肠道有益共生菌的营养物质,但不能被致病菌利用,这有益于共生菌数量稳定,进而增强共生菌对沙门菌、柠檬酸杆菌和粪肠球菌等多种病原体的定植抗力^[24, 27-28]。ILC3也可通过表达主要组织相容性复合体Ⅱ(MHCⅡ)分子及分泌GM-CSF来增强肠道对共生菌的免疫耐受,维持微生态平衡^[29-31]。而ILC3缺失的Rorc $^{-/-}$ 小鼠和ILC3 MHCⅡ表达缺陷的H2-Ab1 $^{\Delta ILC3}$ 小鼠体内共生菌反应性T淋巴细胞明显增多,共生菌特异性IgG抗体水平显著升高,最终发生共生菌依赖性肠炎^[29]。另有研究显示,缺乏ILC3或其关键转录调节因子还可诱导小鼠肠道微生物的组成发生改变,即菌群失调,导致更为严重的结肠炎^[32-33]。同样,Zenewicz等^[34]通过16SrRNA基因测序分析发现,IL-22缺陷小鼠的结肠微生物群也存在类似的菌群失调,将IL-22缺陷小鼠的肠道菌群移植给野生型小鼠,可导致后者对该结肠炎的易感性增加。

2.1.2 ILC3在清除肠道病原微生物中的作用:多项研究表明,在感染的情况下,ILC3可以感知由微生物刺激髓系细胞产生的细胞因子IL-23、IL-1 β 信号而分泌IL-22,继而诱导肠道上皮细胞分泌 β -防御素及抗菌肽,实现对肠道外源性病原体的清除,包括艰难梭菌^[35]、轮状病毒^[36]以及肠道蠕虫^[37]等。ILC3也可通过芳香烃受体(Ahr)直接与肠道共生乳酸杆菌衍生的色氨酸分解代谢物吲哚-3-甲醇(I3C)结合而促进IL-22的分泌,增强对白色念珠菌的定植抗力和对肠道黏膜的保护^[38]。此外,ILC3还可通过表达神经营养因子受体RET,直接对微生物刺激小肠神经胶质细胞产生的神经

营养因子(GDNF)家族配体应答,调控IL-22的转录和分泌,增强肠道屏障功能,抵御对柠檬酸杆菌的感染^[39]。

2.2 ILC3在肠道屏障黏液层中的作用:肠道屏障黏液层是一种疏水性复合物结构,可有效对抗大分子物质通过肠壁,保护上皮免受有害微生物和抗原的侵害。依据组成及紧密度不同,黏液层可分为内外两层。外黏液层是由退化的黏液、稀释的抗菌肽和一些细菌组成,厚但较为松散,是肠道共生菌的栖息地;内黏液层比较薄但黏附性牢固,富含抗菌肽,不允许细菌穿透,从而使上皮细胞表面无细菌。高度糖基化的黏蛋白在黏液层的构成中起关键作用^[26]。ILC3通过IL-22实现对肠道黏液层的调控作用。

2.2.1 生理情况下 ILC3 对肠道黏液层的作用:生理情况下,ILC3是稳态期间IL-22的主要来源^[40-41]。IL-22可通过IL-22-IL-22R途径刺激肠道潘氏细胞分泌抗菌肽Reg III β 和Reg III γ ^[42],后两者在肠腔细菌和肠上皮细胞间形成50 μm 无菌隔离带,维持黏液屏障,阻止肠道细菌向肠系膜淋巴结、肝脏等移位,防止肠源性感染的发生^[31]。

2.2.2 病理情况下 ILC3 对肠道黏液层的作用:炎症、感染等病理情况下,肠道内黏液分泌可受损。研究显示,与野生型小鼠相比,IL-22缺陷小鼠对葡聚硫酸钠(DSS)诱导的结肠炎高度敏感,表现为体重显著下降和死亡率升高^[43];当给予外源性IL-22补救后,小鼠肠道的病理状况可得到显著改善^[44]。有研究者认为:这种保护作用可能是通过IL-22在结肠炎期间诱导杯状细胞分泌黏蛋白(Muc1、Muc3、Muc10、Muc13),在肠上皮细胞和肠内容物之间形成具有保护作用的化学屏障所引起的^[45]。

2.3 ILC3在肠道屏障上皮细胞层中的作用:肠上皮细胞依据功能不同可分为4种,即吸收营养的上皮细胞、分泌黏液的杯状细胞、产生激素的内分泌细胞以及产生防御素的潘氏细胞。通常情况下,人体肠上皮细胞每5~7 d更新1次^[46]。上皮细胞间主要由4种跨膜蛋白occluding、claudin、junctional adhesin molecules(JAMS)、tricellulin以及1种胞质黏附蛋白ZO-1组成的紧密连接蛋白维持上皮细胞层正常的渗透性^[47]。生理状态下,肠上皮细胞层可有效抵御病原体的入侵。与对黏液层的作用类似,ILC3主要也是通过IL-22对肠上皮细胞层发挥作用的。

2.3.1 生理情况下 ILC3 对肠上皮细胞层的作用:肠上皮细胞层受损后易于诱发细菌移位而产生破坏性炎症。为了维持正常的屏障组成,隐窝干细胞可迅速增殖并补充所有肠上皮细胞。有研究表明,小肠上皮细胞受损后,ILC3通过IL-22诱导肠上皮细胞更新、增殖,ILC3和(或)IL-22缺陷可导致隐窝干细胞严重受损,无法形成完整的上皮细胞层^[7, 48];此外,IL-22还可通过调控凋亡基因Bcl-2、Bcl-xL和Mcl-1等的表达来抑制肠上皮细胞凋亡,维护肠上皮完整性^[42]。同时,IL-22也可上调紧密连接蛋白claudin-1的mRNA表达,从而增强细胞间的紧密连接,维持肠上皮屏障功能^[49]。

2.3.2 病理情况下 ILC3 对肠上皮细胞层的作用:虽然ILC3对肠道上皮细胞层有重要的保护作用,但是在某些调节异常的病理条件或持续慢性炎症刺激的情况下,或将改变ILC3的效应功能,导致肠道病理损伤。有研究显示,当ILC3过表达IL-23R基因时,导致IL-17A、IFN- γ 等更多的细胞因子释放,损害肠上皮屏障,引发肠道病理损伤,增加新生小鼠死亡率^[50]。不仅动物如此,人类也存在类似现象。Geremia等^[51]研究显示,部分克罗恩病患者对IL-23反应异常,选择性增加具备分泌IFN- γ 的NCR $^-(\text{NKp}44^-\text{CD}56^-)$ CCR6 $^+$ ILC3数量并分泌高水平的IL-17A,最终可加重结肠炎症。此外,ILC3长期过量生成IL-22还可导致结直肠癌发生^[52]。因此,病理状态下ILC3的过度活化可能通过损伤肠黏膜上皮,加重肠道损伤。

2.4 ILC3 在肠免疫细胞层中的作用:肠道内的黏膜免疫系统由肠相关淋巴组织(GALT)组成。GALT主要以两种形式存在:一种是弥散分布在肠道黏膜上皮及固有层的淋巴细胞;另一种为组织化的淋巴组织,如派氏淋巴结、肠系膜淋巴结、孤立淋巴滤泡等。ILC3可促进GALT的形成,协调肠道适应性免疫应答。

2.4.1 ILC3 在 GALT 发育形成中的作用:ILC3是首批定植于肠道组织的免疫细胞。在出生之前,胎儿LTi细胞是外周次级淋巴组织器官发生的关键启动因素,通过LTi细胞与基质组织细胞之间的相互作用并依赖于LTi细胞表达的淋巴毒素,共同形成肠道中的肠系膜淋巴结和派氏淋巴结,并促进其发育^[53]。在出生之后,LTi-like ILC3与肠道基质细胞之间的相互作用对于肠道淋巴组织形成同样具有重要意义。在出生后1~2周,肠道固有层中形成富含LTi-like ILC3的隐窝斑,位于肠道底部隐窝结构附近^[54]。隐窝斑中的ILC3通过淋巴毒素- β 受体(LT β R)激活肠道基质细胞,并在共生菌的协同作用下募集树突细胞(DC)和B淋巴细胞,形成孤立淋巴滤泡^[54-56]。孤立淋巴滤泡是炎症或肠道细菌过度生长的情况下B淋巴细胞增殖的主要场所,并能产生针对肠道细菌的分泌型免疫球蛋白A(sIgA)^[55]。这表明孤立淋巴滤泡是由ILC3调节的诱导性淋巴组织,协调对共生菌的局部反应。

2.4.2 ILC3 在肠道适应性免疫应答中的作用:稳态条件下,肠道NKp46 $^+$ ILC3和LTi-like ILC3均是GM-CSF的重要来源。由肠道微生物诱导巨噬细胞产生的IL-1 β 可刺激ILC3分泌GM-CSF,后者反过来可调节单核吞噬细胞功能以促进局部调节性T细胞(Treg)分化并增强肠道免疫耐受性^[30]。虽然ILC3不表达抗原特异性受体,但有研究显示,LTi-like ILC3表达高水平的MHC II并具有抗原呈递活性,允许它们直接与T淋巴细胞相互作用。ILC3通过MHC II向肠道共生菌特异性CD4 $^+$ T淋巴细胞呈递共生菌抗原,抑制其对共生菌应答,诱导免疫耐受,维持肠内稳态^[29, 57]。其机制在于MHC II $^+$ LTi-like ILC3在稳态下缺乏经典共刺激分子CD80

和CD86的表达,仅能处理和呈递抗原,而不激活T淋巴细胞,最终诱导免疫耐受^[29]。此外,LTi-like ILC3还可通过表达调节B淋巴细胞反应的多肽蛋白,即膜结合淋巴毒素异源三聚体(LT α 1 β 2)以及可溶性淋巴毒素同源三聚体(LT α 3)分别控制T淋巴细胞非依赖性和T淋巴细胞依赖性sIgA应答^[58-59]。

然而在病理条件下,MHC II $^+$ ILC3可以上调这些分子并起到促进免疫应答的作用^[60]。此外,ILC3可以通过辅助共刺激分子的表达来增强CD4 $^+$ T淋巴细胞应答。ILC3通过表达OX40L和CD30L来促进记忆CD4 $^+$ T淋巴细胞的存活并帮助T淋巴细胞依赖性抗体应答^[61]。也有学者认为,ILC3与适应性免疫群体之间的相互作用可能是双向的,因为缺乏T淋巴细胞的小鼠表现出肠内ILC3数量增加,促进IL-22产生和抗菌肽的表达^[62]。

3 总结和展望

ILCs作为新兴研究发现的免疫细胞群,在黏膜组织中的保护作用被人们密切关注。大量实验研究表明,在肠黏膜内极具丰度的ILC3可维持共生菌数量稳定,清除入侵病原微生物;促进潘氏细胞分泌抗菌肽,稳固黏液层,促进肠上皮细胞更新,增强细胞间紧密连接,维护上皮屏障功能;促进肠道黏膜免疫形成,协调免疫应答。ILC3在维护肠道屏障功能中的重要作用,为研究其作为防治肠道损伤的治疗靶点提供了理论基础。但值得注意的是,ILC3调控异常也可导致肠道病理损伤,提示我们将来利用ILC3治疗疾病时应扬长避短,避免不利影响。

脓毒症是病理状态下引发肠道损伤的主要原因之一。肠道不仅是脓毒症等病理状态对器官损伤的被动接受者,更是参与疾病发生发展进程的重要免疫器官,对脓毒症发生发展起到重要的推动作用。然而,ILC3在脓毒症防治研究中鲜见报道,ILC3在脓毒症肠道损伤病理生理过程中将出现怎样的改变,其变化将如何影响脓毒症病理进程,目前尚不清楚。因此,探讨ILC3活化及功能的精细调控对防治脓毒症肠道损伤有重要意义,值得深入研究。

利益冲突 所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突

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