IgA Containing Material in Monocytes from Patients with IgA Nephropathy

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Dear Sir,

IgA containing immune complexes (IgAIC) have been detected in serum of patients with IgA nephropathy [1,2]. Recently Kauffmann et al. [3] found cytoplasmatic inclusions of IgA in normal polymorphonuclear leucocytes (PMNS) incubated with sera from patients with Henoch-Schönlein purpura. Sato et al. [4] found that IgA containing intracytoplasmic inclusions were frequently present in PMNS from patients with IgA nephropathy, and suggested that PMNS may be involved in the clearance of IgAIC from the circulation. However tissue location of immune complexes is mainly modulated by reticuloendothelial system (RES) [5,6] which includes tissue macrophages and monocytes [7]. Nevertheless information

about involvement of these cells in the clearance of IgAIC is lacking. By employing a new method for separating monocytes in nearly pure suspension [8], we detected by direct fluorescence with IgG/F(ab)2 fragment antihuman IgA from rabbit (Behring) granular deposits of IgA containing material in monocytes from patients with IgA nephropathy (fig. 1).

These results relate to other observations of phagocytic dysfunction in IgA nephropathy [9, 10], and may reflect a saturation of RES function in this disease that may cause mesangial deposition of IgA containing immune materials.

References

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Healthy subjects

IgA

nephropathy

Fig. 1. Detection of IgA containing material in monocytes from patients with IgA nephropathy and normal controls by means of fluorescein-conjugated IgG/F(ab)2-fragment anti-human IgA.

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