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T₈-Lymphocytes in Cyclical Neutropenia

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Following the recent publication by Ucci et al. in *Ada Haematologica* [77: 177–179, 1987], we would like to correct any misunderstanding concerning our paper [J.G. Smith et al.: *Br. J. Haematol.* 60: 481–489] as cited by the above authors. The peripheral blood T₈-lymphocytes which were found in our patient with cyclical neutropenia were not suppressor, neither phenotypically (Fcγ-) nor functionally, as claimed by Ucci et al. These cycled in phase with marrow granulopoietic activity, but out of phase with peripheral blood neutrophil counts. Functionally, they produced large quantities of GM-CSF spontaneously.

In our patient, we were able to demonstrate deficient production of GM-CSF by monocytes [which are derived from the same stem cell (CFU-GM), which is thought to be defective in cyclical neutropenia] and therefore concluded that the circulating T₈ Fcγ- lymphocytes were compensating for the humoral defect in the monocytic lineage.

More recently, using cell sorter experiments, we have found that marrow T₈ cells (taken from trephine biopsies devoid of peripheral blood contamination) are predominantly Fcγ- and produce GM-CSF spontaneously [J.G. Smith et al.: *Br. J. Haematol* 60: 370 (abstr.); J.G. Smith et al.: submitted for publication]. Lastly, the title of our paper is misquoted by Ucci et al. and should read ‘Cyclical Neutropenia and T₈ Lymphocyte-Mediated Stimulation of Granulopoiesis’.