Recent Advances in Tonsils and Mucosal Barriers of the Upper Airways
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Recent Advances in Tonsils and Mucosal Barriers of the Upper Airways

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43 figures, 18 in color, and 17 tables, 2011
Contents

IX  Preface
    Harabuchi, Y. (Asahikawa)

XI  Symposium Organization

Lectures

1  Clinical Manifestations and Pathogenesis of Tonsillar Focal Diseases: IgA Nephropathy and Palmoplantar Pustulosis
    Harabuchi, Y. (Asahikawa)

6  Moving Towards a New Era in the Research of Tonsils and Mucosal Barriers
    Yamanaka, N. (Wakayama)

20  Immune Functions of Nasopharyngeal Lymphoid Tissue
    Brandtzaeg, P. (Oslo)

25  Elicitation of Mucosal Immunity by Proteins of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
    Briles, D.E. (Birmingham, Ala.); Miyaji, E. (São Paulo); Fukuyama, Y. (Birmingham, Ala.); Ferreira, D.M. (São Paulo/Liverpool); Fujihashi, K. (Birmingham, Ala.)

28  Mucosal Immune Barrier and Antigen-Presenting System in Human Nasal Epithelial Cells

31  Craniofacial Mucosal Immune System: Importance of Its Unique Organogenesis and Function in the Development of a Mucosal Vaccine

37  Tonsillectomy with Steroid Pulse: A Curative Therapy for IgA Nephropathy
    Hotta, O. (Sendai)

Clinical Effects of Tonsillectomy for IgA Nephropathy

40  Recent Advances in IgA Nephropathy – The Glomerulopodocytic-Tubular Communication
    Lai, K.N.; Tang, S.C.W.; Leung, J.C.K. (Hong Kong)

45  Immunomodulatory Agents against IgA Nephropathy
    Tang, S.C.W.; Leung, J.C.K.; Lai, K.N. (Hong Kong)

50  Indication Criteria for Tonsillectomy in IgA Nephropathy Patients
    Akagi, H. (Okayama); Doi, A. (Kochi); Kosaka, M.; Hattori, K.; Kariya, S.; Fukushima, K.; Okano, M.; Nishizaki, K.; Masuda, Y. (Okayama)
Periodontal and ENT Therapy in the Treatment of Pediatric Henoch-Schönlein Purpura and IgA Nephropathy

Tonsillectomy Combined with Steroid Pulse Therapy Induces Clinical Remission of IgA Nephropathy
Komatsu, H.; Fujimoto, S. (Miyazaki)

Pathogenesis of IgA Nephropathy

Aberrant Glycosylation of IgA1 and Anti-Glycan Antibodies in IgA Nephropathy: Role of Mucosal Immune System
Novak, J.; Moldoveanu, Z.; Julian, B.A. (Birmingham, Ala.); Raska, M. (Birmingham, Ala./Olomouc); Wyatt, R.J. (Memphis, Tenn.); Suzuki, Y.; Tomino, Y. (Tokyo); Gharavi, A.G. (New York, N.Y.); Mestecky, J. (Birmingham, Ala.); Suzuki, H. (Birmingham, Ala./Tokyo)

Reevaluation of the Mucosa-Bone Marrow Axis in IgA Nephropathy with Animal Models

IgA Nephropathy and Aberrant Glycosylation of Tonsillar, Serum and Glomerular IgA1
Hiki, Y. (Aichi); Ito, A. (Kanagawa); Yamamoto, Y.; Yamamoto, K. (Aichi); Iwase, H. (Kanagawa)

Abnormalities of Glycogenes in Tonsillar Lymphocytes in IgA Nephropathy

Microarray Analysis of Tonsils of IgA Nephropathy Patients

Reactive Arthritis Induced by Tonsillitis: A Type of ‘Focal Infection’
Kobayashi, S. (Saitama); Ichikawa, G. (Tokyo)

Tonsil-Related Skin Diseases and Possible Involvement of T Cell Co-Stimulation in Chronic Focal Infection
Kobayashi, S. (Tokyo)

Clinical Outcome of Tonsillectomy for Palmoplantar Pustulosis and Etiological Relationship between Palmoplantar Pustulosis and Tonsils
Takahara, M. (Asahikawa)

Triggering Role of Focal Infection in the Induction of Extra-Palmoplantar Lesions and Pustulotic Arthro-Osteitis Associated with Palmoplantar Pustulosis
Yamamoto, T. (Fukushima)

Role of Biofilms in Chronic Inflammatory Diseases of the Upper Airways
Calò, L.; Passàli, G.C.; Galli, J.; Fadda, G.; Paludetti, G. (Rome)
Regulation of Microbiota by Antimicrobial Peptides in the Gut

Evidence of the Local Immune Status in the Human Larynx
Nakashima, T.; Tomita, H.; Chitose, S. (Kurume)

Short Review on Sublingual Immunotherapy for Patients with Allergic Rhinitis: from Bench to Bedside

Differential Properties of Mucous Glycoproteins Produced by Allergic Inflammation and Lipopolysaccharide Stimulation in Rat Nasal Epithelium
Shimizu, T.; Shimizu, S. (Otsu)

Nasal-Associated Lymphoid Tissue Immunity and Vaccine Development
Kodama, S.; Suzuki, M. (Yufu)

Intranasal Therapy with CpG DNA Alone for the Control of Allergic Rhinitis

Mucosal Defense Mechanism to Bacteria in the Upper Airways

Airway Bacterial Interactions and Impact on Host Immune Responses
Kyd, J.; Krishnamurthy, A.; McGrath, J.; Browne, J. (Rockhampton, Qld.); Vahedi, F. (Rockhampton, Qld./Mashhad)

Protection of Pneumococcal Infection by Maternal Intranasal Immunization with Pneumococcal Surface Protein A
Hotomi, M.; Kono, M. (Wakayama); Hollingshead, S.K.; Briles, D.E. (Birmingham, Ala.); Yamanaka, N. (Wakayama)

Heat-Shock Protein ClpL/HSP100 Increases Penicillin Tolerance in Streptococcus pneumoniae

Clinical Manifests and Pathogenesis of Tonsillitis

Immunologic Impact of Tonsillipharyngitis Associated with Group A Streptococci
Kaplan, E.L. (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Influence of Waldeyer's Ring Hypertrophy on Snoring and Sleep Apnea
Passàli, D. (Siena); De Benedetto, M. (Lecce); Lauriello, M. (L’Aquila); Passàli, F.M. (Rome)

Tonsils Diseases, Past, Present and Future and the Impact in Clinical Practice in Brazil
Endo, L.H. (São Paulo)

Medical and Surgical Treatments of Pharyngotonsillitis

Clinical Scoring System of Acute Pharyngotonsillitis

Clinical Guideline on Adenotonsillectomy: The Italian Experience
Bellussi, L.M. (Siena); Marchisio, P. (Milan); Materia, E.; Passàli, F.M. (Roma)
### Mucosal Vaccine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Diversity of Mucosal Immune Responses in Upper Respiratory Organs and Its Application for Mucosal Vaccine</td>
<td>Kurono, Y.; Miyashita, K.; Makise, T.; Nagano, H. (Kagoshima)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Viral Infection of Tonsil and Upper Airways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>157</td>
<td>A Novel Immune Evasion Mechanism of LMP-1, an EBV-Primary Oncogene, in Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma</td>
<td>Yoshizaki, T. (Kanazawa)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Otitis Media and Upper Airways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>Otitis Media and Tonsils – Role of Adenoidectomy in the Treatment of Chronic Otitis Media with Effusion</td>
<td>Park, K. (Suwon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164</td>
<td>Otitis Media and Immunological Alterations of Waldeyer’s Ring</td>
<td>Cassano, P.; Cassano, M. (Foggia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170</td>
<td>Role of Nontypeable Haemophilus influenzae in Otitis Media and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease</td>
<td>Thanavala, Y.; Lugade, A.A. (Buffalo, N.Y.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Abstracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>179</td>
<td>Mucosal Defense Mechanism and Vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190</td>
<td>IgA Nephropathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201</td>
<td>Tonsil-Associated Skin Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205</td>
<td>Bacterial and Viral Infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>214</td>
<td>Allergy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>OSAS and Tonsillectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>Author Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>Subject Index</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preface

As a president of the 7th International Symposium on Tonsils and Mucosal Barriers of the Upper Airways (ISTMB), I had the great pleasure and honor to organize the symposium held in Asahikawa City, Japan, July 7–9, 2010. I am sure that the 7th symposium was extremely fruitful and successful for all of the participants.

Over the past few decades, since the 1st meeting of this symposium held in Kyoto in 1987, the various aspects of tonsils and mucosal immunity of upper airways have kept attracting both researchers and clinicians from all over the world. The symposium was designed to provide updates on information concerning tonsils and mucosal immunity as well as to build good friendships among all the participants.

In this 7th symposium, we had 154 presentations and over 250 participants from all over the world. This was twice the number of the past symposium and was highest of all the symposiums held so far. The topics extended widely to both basic and clinical research areas of tonsils and upper airways such as: (1) immunology and mucosal defense systems, (2) bacteriology and virology, (3) mucosal vaccine for upper airway infections, (4) MALT, NALT and LALT, (5) clinical manifests and pathogenesis of tonsil-related diseases such as IgA nephropathy, palmoplantal pustulosis, reactive arthritis, and other diseases, (6) association of tonsils with otitis media, (7) allergic diseases in the upper airways, (8) obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, and (9) medical and surgical treatments of tonsillar diseases. These proceedings mark the summary of topics presented in the 7th ISTMB. I am sure that the proceedings will provide new interests in this area.

Finally, I wish to sincerely express my appreciation to all of the participants, members of the organizing committee, and my colleagues at the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Asahikawa Medical University. The 8th symposium will be organized by Professor David Nadal and held in Zürich, Switzerland, in 2013. I hope that basic and clinical scientists in this area from all over the world will join the meeting.

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