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Short Peptide Vaccine Induces CD4+ T Helper Cells in Patients with Different Solid Cancers

The management of mRCC is being revolutionized by immune checkpoint inhibition. Patient response to anti–PD-1/PD-L1 agents is heterogeneous, and misleading CT scans might be common. Examples of five classes of patient responses and their images are presented and interpreted.

The possibility that short peptide vaccines induce antitumor CD4+ T-cell responses has been widely ignored. Peripheral blood from vaccinated patients revealed that short peptides often activate specific T helper cells, facilitating a strong combined CD4+ and CD8+ T-cell response.

The IL17 produced by tumor-invading gd T cells was found to promote transendothelial tumor invasion and lung metastasis.

Colon and rectal cancer cases in two U.S. nationwide prospective cohort studies were examined for an association of microRNA MIR21 (miR-21) and T-cell infiltration. MIR21 expression was inversely associated with densities of CD3+ and CD45RO+ T cells.

T-bet+ lymphoid cells are associated with adverse clinicopathologic features like the basal subgroup, yet confer a favorable outcome in invasive breast cancer. Thus, T-bet may prove to be an important prognostic and/or predictive marker for use in immunotherapy trials.

IL15 stimulates T-cell and NK-cell responses, but not Tregs. The antitumor efficacy, biodistribution, and toxicity of an IL15-based superagonist, ALT-803, was examined in animal models and was superior, supporting its clinical development for advanced hematologic or solid tumors.

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T-cell Exhaustion in Multiple Myeloma Relapse after Autotransplant: Optimal Timing of Immunotherapy

David J. Chung, Katherine B. Pronschinske, Justin A. Shyer, Sneh Sharma, Samantha Leung, Shane A. Curran, Alexander M. Lesokhin, Sean M. Devlin, Sergio A. Giralt, and James W. Young

Autologous transplantation prolongs disease-free survival in multiple myeloma but is not curative. Regulatory T cells decline early after transplant, and T-cell exhaustion/senescence signals imminent relapse, providing therapeutic opportunities to revive antimyeloma immunity and counteract relapse.

Dietary Consumption of Black Raspberries or Their Anthocyanin Constituents Alters Innate Immune Cell Trafficking in Esophageal Cancer

Daniel S. Peiffer, Li-Shu Wang, Noah P. Zimmerman, Benjamin W.S. Ransom, Steven G. Carmella, Chieh-Ti Kuo, Jo-Hsin Chen, Kiyoko Oshima, Yi-Wen Huang, Stephen S. Hecht, and Gary D. Stoner

Black raspberries and their constituents effectively reduce carcinogen-induced tumorigenesis in the rat esophagus through the reduction of inflammation. Current findings show that these changes are associated with altered immune cell trafficking within the esophagus tissue as well.

ABOUT THE COVER

T cells and NK cells are important components of antitumor responses against many cancers. Unlike some other interleukins, IL15 will stimulate and promote proliferation of these immune cells, but not regulatory T cells. A superagonist called ALT-803, based on an IL15 variant complexed to a dimeric IL15 receptor α-Fc fusion protein, was found to be a powerful antitumor agent in multiple models, as described in the Research Article by Rhode and colleagues that begins on p. 49 of this issue of Cancer Immunology Research. Original micrograph (right) shows CD8⁺ T cells binding and internalizing ALT-803. Photo credit: Samantha Suriano of the Mark Rubinstein laboratory at the Medical University of South Carolina and used with permission. Artwork: Lewis Long.