

582 *Involvement of Tyk2 in experimental arthritis*

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## Chapter 5 1

# Encephalomyocarditis Virus 2

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### Introduction 4

Accumulating evidence has suggested a viral origin of type 1 diabetes development. 5  
Historical study has indicated the presence of certain viruses including coxsackie 6  
virus, cytomegalovirus, varicella-zoster virus, and rubella virus in patients with fatal 7  
viral infections associated with pancreatic islet cell damage (Jenson et al. 1980), sug- 8  
gesting that many viruses have potent diabetes inducers. Recent advances in the field 9  
have focused on the enteroviral infection as the most possible candidate virus to 10  
induce type 1 diabetes associated with immunopathologic reaction (Clements et al. 11  
1995; Hanafusa and Imagawa 2008; Tauriainen et al. 2011; Richardson et al. 2011). 12

Encephalomyocarditis (EMC) virus has provided the most useful animal model 13  
for virus-induced type 1 diabetes (Jun and Yoon 2001). Development of diabetes 14  
depends on many factors including virus strain, challenge dose, host factors such as 15  
sex, immunoprotective function, inflammatory responses with macrophages, cytok- 16  
ines, chemokines and chemical mediators (Jun and Yoon 2001). Autoimmunity 17  
induction is not likely to operate in this model, though a hit-and-run event cannot be 18  
excluded. The clarification of the pathogenesis of EMC virus-induced diabetes will 19  
not only promote a better understanding of the mechanisms of virus-induced diabe- 20  
tes, but also enhance the protection strategy against virus-induced diabetes. The 21  
history and pathogenesis of EMC virus-induced diabetes are described, and the 22  
future aspects of the significance of this animal model of virus-induced diabetes are 23  
discussed. 24

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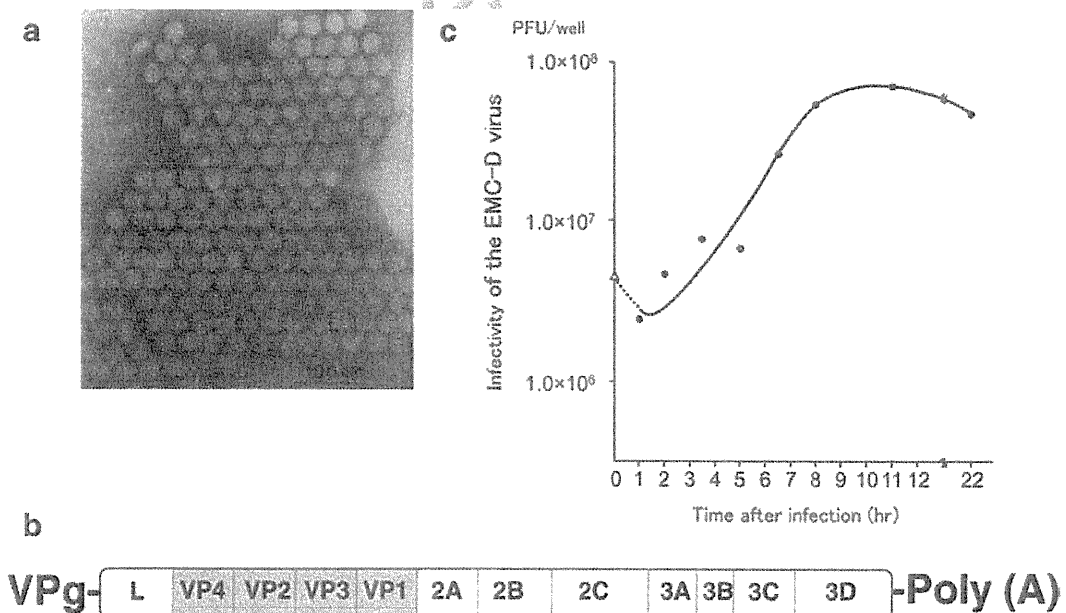
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25 **The EMC Virus**

26 Encephalomyocarditis virus belongs to the Picornaviridae family, as enteroviruses  
 27 including coxsackie virus, genus cardiovirus, unenveloped, icosahedral structure  
 28 (Fig. 5.1a) consisting of four capsid proteins (VP1~4), surrounding a core of  
 29 ssRNA, moderately resistant to acidic pH (Racaniello 2007). The virion contains  
 30 one molecule of positive sense, ssRNA, about 7.8 kb in size, containing a single  
 31 open reading frame (ORF) (Fig. 5.1b) (Racaniello 2007). The virus can be grown in  
 32 a tissue culture well with a one step replication time of about 8 h (Fig. 5.1c), and can  
 33 infect rodents, usually producing systemic infection representing encephalitis and  
 34 myocarditis. The virus rarely infects humans. Craighead and McLane (1968) first  
 35 found that the M variant of the EMC virus certainly induced diabetes in several  
 36 susceptible strains of male mice. Later, Yoon et al. (1980) isolated the highly diabe-  
 37 togenic D variant of EMC virus and the non-diabetogenic B strain of the EMC  
 38 virus, by the plaque clone purification method. EMC-D virus produces diabetes in  
 39 over 90% of infected susceptible strain of mice, while EMC-B virus did not induce  
 40 diabetes in any strain of mice (Yoon et al. 1980). The susceptibility depends on the  
 41 strain of mice and sex, namely only male mice are susceptible to the virus (Ross  
 42 et al. 1975; Yoon et al. 1980; Huber et al. 1985). These findings accelerated the  
 43 study of viral genetic factors to enhance the induction of diabetes in susceptible  
 44 animals as well as research on pathogenesis (Fig. 5.2).

[AU2]



**Fig. 5.1** Characteristics of encephalomyocarditis. (a) Negative stain of EMC-D virus. Courtesy of Dr. Yuji Ueki and Emeritus Professor Kazunobu Amako, Kyushu University. (b) Growth curve of EMC-D virus in mouse embryonic fibroblasts. (c) Genomic structure of EMC virus

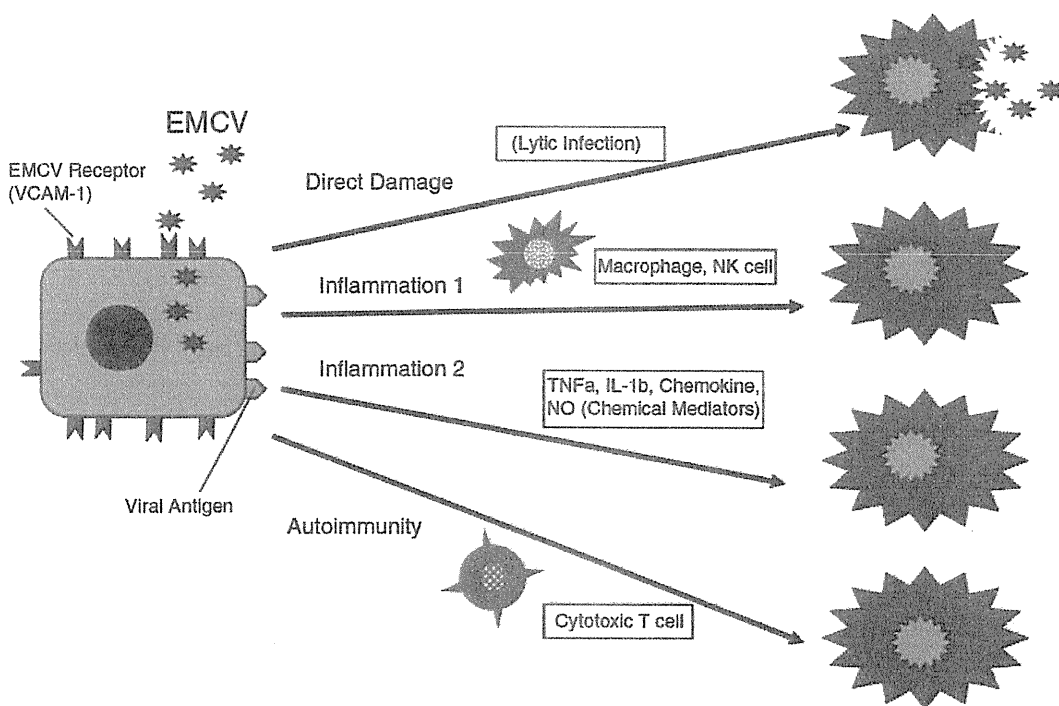


Fig. 5.2 Mechanisms of pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell damage due to EMCV infection

**Pathogenesis of EMC Virus-Induced Diabetes**

45

*EMC Virus*

46

[AU3]

The differing diabetogenicity among EMC viruses has been noted to be dependent 47  
 on the genetic variation. First, the M variant of EMC virus was obtained as highly 48  
 diabetogenic, and later the diabetogenic EMC-D virus and the non-diabetogenic B 49  
 variant were isolated, respectively (Craighead and MacLane 1964; Yoon et al. 50  
 1980). Although EMC-D virus and EMC-B virus could not be distinguished by 51  
 either neutralization assay or competitive radioimmunoassay (Yoon et al. 1980), 52  
 examination of the complete nucleotide sequences of the genomes of both variants 53  
 showed that they were different in only 14 nucleotide positions (Eun et al. 1988; 54  
 Bae et al. 1989). Further molecular analysis by generating mutant viruses revealed 55  
 that a "G" base at position 3155 ([GCC] Ala-776) is common to all diabetogenic 56  
 variants, while an "A" base at the same position ([ACC] Thr-776) is common to all 57  
 non-diabetogenic variants (Bae and Yoon 1993). Therefore, only one amino acid, 58  
 alanine (776th amino acid on the polyprotein), is essential for the diabetogenicity of 59  
 the EMC virus (Bae and Yoon 1993). These beautiful studies revealed that the single 60  
 point mutation of "A" to "G" at position 3155 (Thr-776 to Ala-776) are critical 61  
 to operate as the diabetogenic EMC virus (Jun et al. 1997). It was found that a 62  
 change from Thr-776 to Ala-776 reduced the hydrophilicity of the region by 37%, 63

64 which may increase the efficiency of viral attachment to pancreatic beta cells (Kang  
65 and Yoon 1993; Jun et al. 1997, 1998), suggesting that the significance of the genetic  
66 difference had been supposed to influence the effectiveness of the attachment for  
67 beta cells. A challenge dose is not critical for inducing diabetes; however, it has  
68 been indicated that a high dose ( $10^5$ ) PFU challenge destroys directly the pancreatic  
69 beta cells, while low dose ( $10^2$ ) challenge will induce inflammatory responses which  
70 may damage beta cells (Yoon et al. 1980; Huber et al. 1985).

## 71 Protection

### 72 *Innate Immunity*

73 Since the EMC virus-induced diabetes develops within 3 days after infection, innate  
74 immunity, such as macrophages, interferons, and early inflammatory responses, is  
75 likely to be most important for determining the outcome after EMC virus infection  
76 (Yoon et al. 1980). Recent advances in the immunology of innate immunity found  
77 the significance of pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) directed against pathogen-  
78 associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) (Takeuchi and Akira 2009). They include  
79 toll-like receptors (TLR), and intracellular helicase such as melanocyte differentia-  
80 tion antigen (MDA) 5 for picornavirus retinoic acid inducible gene (RIG) I, and  
81 interferon induced with the helicase C domain 1 (IFIH1) for paramyxovirus. It was  
82 reported that polymorphism of the IFIH1 gene is associated with type 1 diabetes  
83 (Smyth et al. 2006), although it remains uncertain whether this may be associated  
84 with the viral infection. In EMC virus infection, TLR 3, 7, 8, and MDA-5 function  
85 as receptors, mediating the signal transduction pathway, inducing cellular activation  
86 including interferon production (Takeuchi and Akira 2009). McCartney et al. (2011)  
87 reported that MDA5 and TLR3 are both required to prevent diabetes in mice infected  
88 with EMC-D virus. Infection of *Tlr3*<sup>-/-</sup> mice caused diabetes due to impaired IFN-I  
89 responses and virus-induced  $\beta$ -cell damage rather than T-cell-mediated autoimmu-  
90 nity (McCartney et al. 2011). Mice lacking just one copy of MDA5 developed tran-  
91 sient hyperglycemia when infected with EMCV-D, whereas homozygous  
92 *MDA5*<sup>-/-</sup> mice developed severe cardiac pathology (McCartney et al. 2011). TLR3  
93 and MDA5 controlled EMC-D virus infection and diabetes by acting in hematopoi-  
94 etic and stromal cells, respectively, inducing IFN-I responses at kinetically distinct  
95 time points (McCartney et al. 2011). They conclude that optimal functioning of  
96 viral sensors and prompt IFN-I responses are required to prevent diabetes in this  
97 animal model, suggesting the significance of PRR-dependent innate immunity acti-  
98 vation (McCartney et al. 2011).

99 Regarding the role of interferon, conflicting data in this model have been reported  
100 (Kaptur et al. 1989; Hirasawa et al. 1995). One study reported that interferon may  
101 worsen the EMC-D virus-induced diabetes (Kaptur et al. 1989), and others point to

5 Encephalomyocarditis Virus

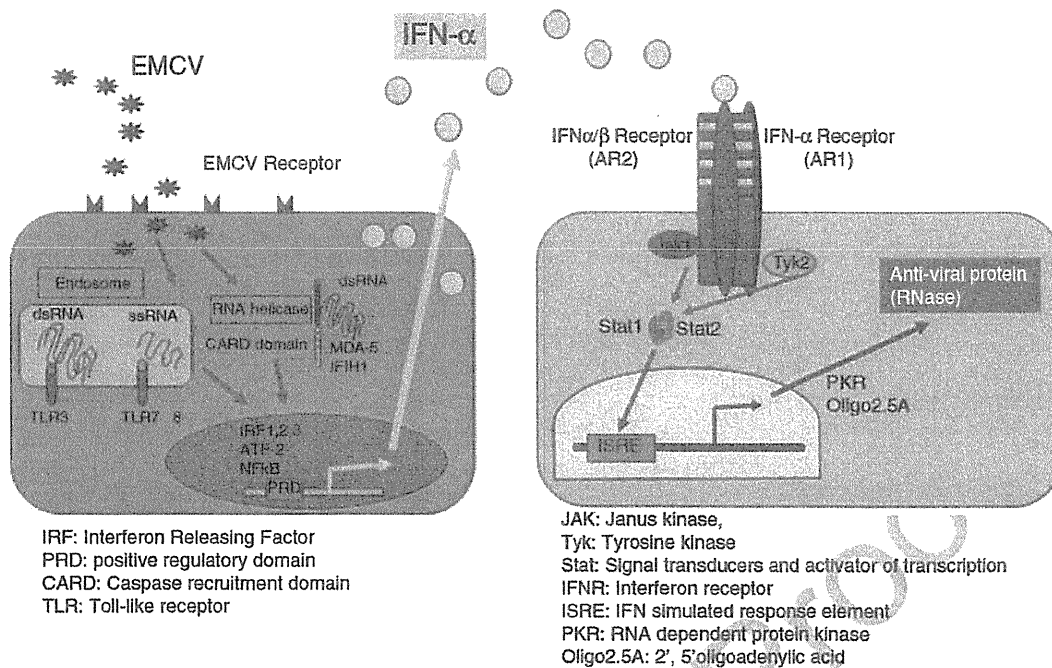


Fig. 5.3 Interferon production following EMCV infection and induction of anti-viral substances by interferon receptor signaling pathway

the significance of protective role of interferon (Hirasawa et al. 1995; McCartney et al. 2011). Possibly the challenge dose of EMC-D virus may alter the protective and/or pathogenic role of interferon in this model (Fig. 5.3).

Adaptive Immunity

[AU4]

Because EMC virus-induced diabetes develops as early as 3–5 days after infection, acquired and/or adaptive immunity did not likely play an important role. Susceptibility to EMC-D virus-induced diabetes is not controlled by the MHC type, and passive transfer of lymphocytes from mice made diabetic mice with EMC-D virus into normal mice failed to produce diabetes. In addition, T-cell-deficient nude mice, B-cell-deficient (muMT) mice, or both T-cell- and B-cell-deficient Rag-2 knockout mice could resist against EMC-D virus-induced diabetes, indicating that adaptive immunity did not affect the outcome of virus-induced diabetes. On the other hand, adoptively transferred antibody to the EMC virus was effective when given before and within 36 h after infection, suggesting that early adoptive antibody transfer or vaccination before infection may work to protect against EMC virus-induced diabetes.

119 **Accelerating Factors**120 *Inflammatory Cells*

121 EMC virus belongs to the group of cytolytic viruses, and therefore a large challenge  
122 dose with the virus destroys pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells extensively enough to lead to diabe-  
123 tes (Yoon et al. 1980; Jun and Yoon 2001). At lower doses of infection, pancreatic  
124  $\beta$ -cell damage is rather minimal. However, induced inflammatory response includ-  
125 ing infiltrated macrophages and produced cytokines and chemical mediators may  
126 damage further the  $\beta$ -cells to a reduced level of insulin secretion, leading to hyper-  
127 glycemia (Baek and Yoon 1990, 1991; Hirasawa et al. 1997). Indeed histopatho-  
128 logic study of EMCV-induced animals developing insulinitis with infiltration of  
129 macrophages to the islets showed that they were associated with the extensive  
130 destruction of pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells (Baek and Yoon 1990, 1991).

131 **Cytokines, Chemokines, and Chemical Mediators**

132 Interleukin-1 and tumor necrosis factor (TNF)  $\alpha$  were suggested to function as key  
133 mediators of pancreatic beta-cell destruction, inducing DNA fragmentation  
134 (Hirasawa et al. 1997; Rabinovitch et al. 1994). Nitric oxide may work as a damag-  
135 ing factor to worsen the deterioration of pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell function (Fehsel et al.  
136 1993). Infiltrated macrophages may be responsible to produce those cytotoxic  
137 mediators (Hirasawa et al. 1997). Recently, it was reported that the CXCR3 ligand  
138 CXCL10 was produced by enterovirus-infected pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells, attracting cyto-  
139 toxic T cells and macrophages, expressing CXCR3, associated with the induction of  
140 insulinitis, leading to  $\beta$ -cell damage (Tanaka et al. 2009).

141 **Other Chemicals**

142 Streptozoin and alloxan are well-known diabetogenic substances, inducing DNA  
143 strand breaks and poly ADP ribose synthetase, which lead to the lack of ATP in  
144 pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells, resulting in extensive  $\beta$ -cell damage (Yamamoto et al. 1981).  
145 Some possible chemicals exist in the environment such as streptozoin, which is a  
146 compound of nitrourea and glucose; a streptoxocin-like substance may be gener- [AU5]  
147 ated reacting with nitrosamines in food and water, and glucose. In addition, alloxan  
148 can be derived from uric acid in the purine metabolism pathway by oxidation with  
149 superoxide substance (Santos et al. 1999). The produced alloxan would possibly  
150 work as a  $\beta$ -cell-specific cytotoxic chemical. Although these possible chemicals to  
151 induce  $\beta$ -cell damage have not been proved to operate in the environment, it should  
152 be noticed that they may work as a risk factor in addition to viral infection.

**Accumulation of Environmental Insults** 153

An interesting report has established the significance of the accumulation of environmental insults such as viruses and chemicals (Toniolo et al. 1980). The concept may also be applicable to type 2 diabetes, where accumulation of risk factors such as diet, obesity, aging, genetic risk, and little exercise together lead to impaired insulin action, resulting in the development of diabetes. Viral infection may contribute to the development of type 2 diabetes when viral infection alone is not sufficient to induce diabetes, but the damage to  $\beta$ -cells may reduce  $\beta$ -cell function to some extent. In this sense, viral infection may serve as another risk factor for the development of type 2 diabetes, although direct evidence is lacking.

**Autoimmunity** 163

[AU6] The EMC virus is a cytolytic virus but does not cause persistent infection, and therefore infected cells are not likely to be attacked by cytotoxic T cells similar to the autoimmune reaction. However, infiltration of T cells with a restricted T-cell receptor repertoire has been reported, suggesting a pathogen and/or autoantigen-directed reaction (Kawagishi et al. 2003). Indeed, lysed cells after infection with the EMC virus would release self-antigens and thus may possibly trigger autoimmunity to pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells as well as virus antigen-directed protective immune response (Flodström et al. 2002; Christen et al. 2010). The hit-and-run theory is hard to confirm and/or disclaim with evidence for or against paradigm. In addition, interferon production induced by viral infection may play a role in the development of autoreactivity to pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells (Fig. 5.4) (Devendra and Eisenbarth 2004). Recent advances in controlling organ-specific autoimmune diseases often associated with autoimmune type 1 diabetes, the significance of AIRE being in the thymus and Treg in the peripheral immunoregulation system have been extensively described in addition to microbial environment engagement (Nagamine et al. 1997; Kogawa et al. 2002; Eisenbarth and Gottlieb 2004; Sakaguchi 2005). Programmed death factor, suppressor of cytokine signaling (SOCS), and B lymphocytes may also contribute to the prevention of autoimmunity to pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells (Chervonsky 2010; Yoshimura, et al. 2007; Pescovitz et al. 2009; Nagafuchi et al. 2010).

**Long-Term Complications** 183

Susceptible mice infected with diabetogenic EMC-D virus develop hyperglycemia and develop characteristic diabetic complications similar to those in humans such as glomerulosclerosis, retinal vessel involvement, and decrease in bone formation and mineralization. The diabetic mice with glomerulosclerosis after 6 months' duration



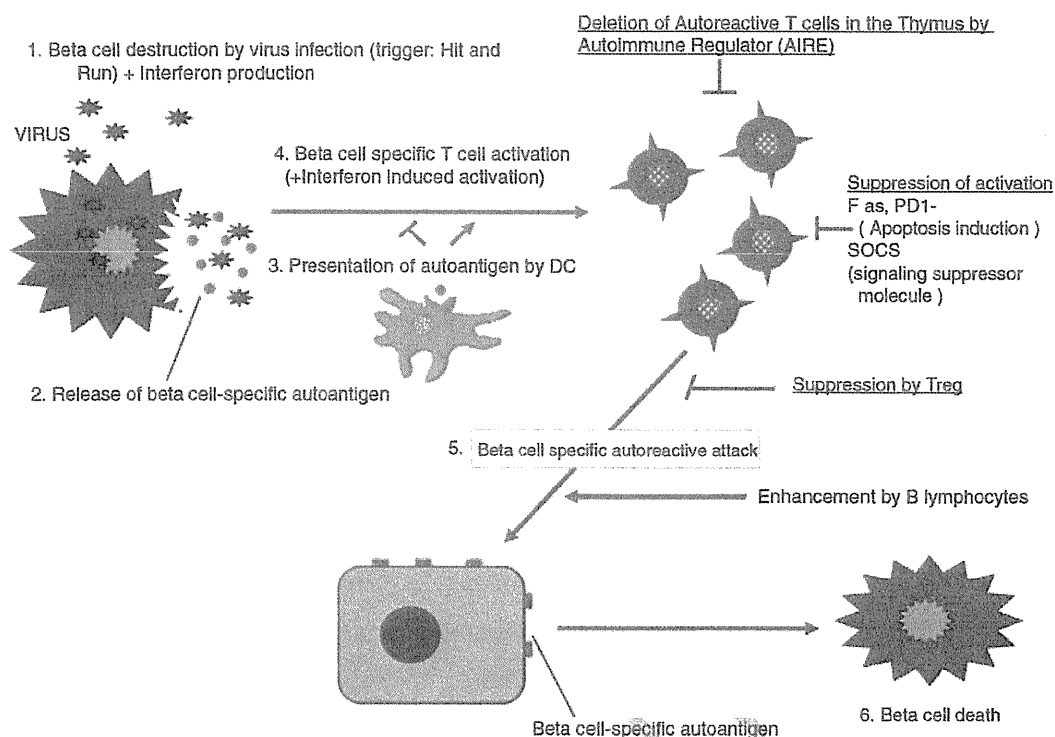


Fig. 5.4 Hypothesis: possible induction of autoreactivity to pancreatic  $\beta$  cells triggered by viral infection

188 revealed the two- to threefold increase in thickness of the glomerular basement  
 189 membrane. Thickening of Bowman's capsule and the renal mesangial matrix has  
 190 also been observed in EMC-M virus-infected DBA/2 mice 2–6 months after infec-  
 191 tion (Yoon et al. 1982).

## 192 Host Factors

193 Even diabetogenic EMC-D virus induced diabetes only in a few strains of mice such  
 194 as SJL/J, SWR, DBA/1J, DBA/2J, while others such as C57BL/6, CBA/J, AKR,  
 195 C3H/HeJ, A/J mice are all resistant to EMC-D virus-induced diabetes (Ross et al.  
 196 1975; Yoon et al. 1980; Huber et al. 1985). Onodera and others have reported that  
 197 F1 hybrid mice between susceptible SWR and resistant C57BL/6 mice were resis-  
 198 tant to virus-induced diabetes, while the next F1 and SWR mating showed that 50%  
 199 of those mice exhibited the susceptibility to the virus, thus indicating that a single  
 200 autosomal recessive gene, which is inherited in a Mendelian fashion, controls the  
 201 susceptibility to the virus (Onodera et al. 1978). It was indicated that the susceptibil-  
 202 ity gene may modulate the expression of virus receptors on  $\beta$ -cells in susceptible  
 203 mice (Kang and Yoon 1993); however the exact controlling gene has remain to be  
 204 identified.

**Prevention** 205

Several preventive strategies have been reported to be effective. As described in the pathogenesis section, Nitrate oxide inhibitors and chemokine suppression may reduce the diabetogenic effect of EMC virus infection. Since the antibody is very effective to prevent the EMC virus infection, vaccination and every early phase of the disease may be effective in preventing the EMC virus-induced diabetes (Kounoue et al. 2008). Immunostimulants such as BCG, *Corynebacterium parvum*, and PolyIC treatment have been shown to be effective in preventing EMD-D virus-induced diabetes (Kounoue et al. 1987; Choi et al. 2000).

**Perspectives** 214

EMC virus has contributed greatly to better understanding of the pathogenesis of virus-induced diabetes. The data described above show the development of diabetes even under the diabetogenic virus challenge, with the outcome being influenced by many factors, such as genetic background, sex, protective immunity, inflammatory cells, cytotoxic mediators, and also perhaps the regenerative activity of pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells (Hover and Sauter 2010). The elevation of blood glucose level may be due to the accumulation of such "risk factors," leading to the development of virus-induced diabetes. Moreover, since even susceptible strains of inbred mice develop virus-induced diabetes in a rather variable but not homogeneous fashion, the "stochastic process" in this model and/or human virus-induced diabetes should therefore be recognized. In order to acquire a better understanding of the pathogenesis of virus-induced diabetes, the assay system for the diabetogenicity of the virus together with clarification of host genetic risk factors should be exploited, as these may lead to the identification of the "diabetogenic" virus. Those studies will hopefully lead to the development of a vaccination strategy to the "diabetogenic" virus, which will in turn not only prevent the development of the virus-induced type 1 diabetes but may also contribute to reduce the risk for the development of type 2 diabetes.

**Summary** 232

- EMC virus has provided the most useful animal model for virus-induced type 1 diabetes. Development of diabetes depends on many factors including virus strain, challenge dose, host factors such as genetic background, sex, immunoprotective function, inflammatory responses with macrophages, cytokines, chemokines, and chemical mediators. 233-237
- Autoimmunity induction is not likely to be a factor in this model, though a hit-and-run event cannot be excluded. 238-239

- 240 • Most importantly, the difference between the diabetogenic strain D (EMC-D)  
 241 and the non-diabetogenic strain B (EMC-B) virus depends on only one amino  
 242 acid change due to single point mutation of “A” to “G” at position 3155 (Thr-776  
 243 to Ala-776), suggesting that possible acquisition of diabetogenicity may occur  
 244 often among environmental “non-diabetogenic” viruses.
- 245 • Although susceptibility to the EMC-D virus-induced diabetes depends on the  
 246 genetic background of mice, the genetic determinants of the host remain to be  
 247 elucidated.

248 Clarification of the pathogenesis of EMC virus-induced diabetes will not only  
 249 promote a better understanding of the mechanisms of virus-induced diabetes in gen-  
 250 eral, but will also contribute to the development of new protective strategies against  
 251 viral diabetes.

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