

研究成果の刊行に関する一覧表

発表者氏名	論文タイトル名	発表誌名	巻号	ページ	出版年
Yu Ishima, Fumika Yoshida, Ulrich Kragh-Hansen, Kaori Watanabe, Naohisa Katayama, Keisuke Nakajou, Takaaki Akaike, Toshiya Kai, Toru Maruyama and Masaki Otagiri.	Cellular uptake mechanisms and responses to NO transferred from mono- and poly-S-nitrosated human serum albumin.	Free Radic Res.	45	1196-1206	2011
Hijikata M, Matsushita I, Tanaka G, Tsuchiya T, Ito H, Tokunaga K, Ohashi J, Homma S, Kobashi Y, Taguchi Y, Azuma A, Kudoh S, Keicho N	Molecular cloning of two novel mucin-like genes in the disease-susceptibility locus for diffuse panbronchiolitis.	Human Genetics	129	117-128	2011
Sakamoto S, Homma S, Mun M, Fujii T, Kurosaki A, Yoshimura K	Acute exacerbation of idiopathic interstitial pneumonia following lung surgery in 3 of 68 consecutive patients	Intern Med	50	77-85	2011
Aoyagi T, Yamamoto N, Hatta I M, Tanno D, Miyazato A, Ishii K, Suzuki K, Nakayama T, Taniguchi M, Kunishima H, Hirakata Y, Kaku M, Kawakami K	Activation of pulmonary invariant NKT cells leads to exacerbation of acute lung injury caused by LPS through local production of IFN- γ and TNF- α by Gr-1+ monocytes.	International Immunology	23	97-108	2011
Mariko Baba, Yasuhiro Mehara, Atsuko Matsuya, Tomokazu Nagao, Kazuo Suzuki, Shoji Kawachi.	Levels of Seventeen Different Cytokines in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid Samples from Two Patients with Connective Tissue Diseases and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome.	IRYO	65(8)	440-5	2011
Hideshi Ihara, Tomohiro Sawa, Yusaku Nakabeppu and Takaaki Akaike.	Nucleotides function as endogenous chemical sensors for oxidative stress signaling.	J Clin Biochem Nutr.	48	1-7	2011
S. Kawachi, T. Matsushita, T. Sato, H. Nuno, H. Noguchi, S. Ota, N. Kanemoto, K. Nakatani, T. Nishiguchi, A. Yuge, H. Imamura, H. Kitajima, K. Narahara, K. Suzuki, T. Miyoshi-Akiyama, T. Kirikae.	Multicenter prospective evaluation of a novel rapid immunochromatographic diagnostic kit specifically detecting influenza A H1N1 2009 virus.	J Clin Virol	51(1)	68-72	2011

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Thuy T.B.Phung, San T. Luong, Shoji Kawachi, Hiroyuki Nunoi, Liem T.Nguyen, Toshinori Nakayama, Kauo Suzuki.	Interleukin 12 and myeloperoxidase(MPO)in Vietnamese children with acute respiratory distress syndrome due to Avian influenza(H5N1)infection	Journal of Infection	62	104-108	2011
Phung TTB, Sugamata R, Uno K, Aratani Y, Ozato K, Kawachi S, Nguyen LT, Nakayama T, Suzuki K.	Key role of RANTES (regulated upon activation normal T-cell expressed and secreted), nonstructural protein1 and myeloperoxidase in cytokine storm induced by influenza virus PR-8(A/H1N1) infection in A549 bronchial epithelial cells.	Microbiol Immunol.	55(12)	874-884	2011
Mina Nakauchi, Tetsushi Yoshikawa, Hidetaka Nakai, Ken Sugata, Akiko Yoshikawa, Yoshizo Asano, Masaru Ihira, Masato Tashiro, Tsutomu Kageyama	Evaluation of reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification assays for rapid diagnosis of pandemic influenza A/H1N1 2009 virus	Journal of Medical Virology	83(1)	10-15	2011
Mina Nakauchi, Makoto Ujike, Masatsugu Obuchi, Emi Takashita, Ikuyo Takayama, Miho Ejima, Kunihiro Oba, Nami Konomi, Takato Odagiri, Masato Tashiro, Tsutomu Kageyama, the influenza virus surveillance group of Japan.	Rapid discrimination of oseltamivir-resistant 275Y and -susceptible 275H substitutions in the neuraminidase gene of pandemic influenza A/H1N1 2009 virus by duplex one-step RT-PCR assay	Journal of Medical Virology	83(7)	1121-1127	2011
Nakauchi M, Ujike M, Obuchi M, Takashita E, Takayama I, Ejima M, Oba K, Konomi N, Odagiri T, Tashiro M, Kageyama T;	the influenza virus surveillance group of Japan. Rapid discrimination of oseltamivir-resistant 275Y and -susceptible 275H substitutions in the neuraminidase gene of pandemic influenza A/H1N1 2009 virus by duplex one-step RT-PCR assay.	Journal of Medical Virology.	83(7)	1121-27	2011
本間 栄、村松陽子	間質性肺炎を管理・治療する-N-アセチルシステイン(N-acetylcysteine)-	Mebio	28	85-93	2011

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Hideshi Ihara, Ahmed Khandaker Ahtesham, Tomoaki Ida, Shingo Kasamatsu, Kouhei Kunieda, Tatsuya Okamoto, Tomohiro Sawa and Takaaki Akaike.	Methodological proof of immunochemistry for specific identification of 8-nitroguanosine 3',5'-cyclic monophosphate formed in glia cells.	Nitric Oxide	25	169-175	2011
Takaaki Akaike, Albert van der Vliet and Philip Eaton.	Frontiers in nitric oxide and redox signaling.	Nitric Oxide	25	57-58	2011
Sugino K, Hebisawa A, Uekusa T, Hatanaka K, Abe H, Homma S	Histopathological bronchial reconstruction of human bronchiolitis obliterans.	Pathol Intern	61	192-201	2011
Fujimoto S, Watts RA, Kobayashi S, Suzuki K, Jayne DR, Scott DG, Hashimoto H, Nuno H.	Comparison of the epidemiology of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated vasculitis between Japan and the U.K.	Rheumatology (Oxford).	50(10)	1916-20	2011
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Isobe K, Hata Y, Sakguchi S, Sato K, Sano G, Sugino K, Sakamoto S, Takai Y, Shibuya K, Takagi K, Homma S	The role of fluoro-2-deoxyglucose positron emission tomography for the detection of gastrointestinal tract lesions in patients with lung cancer.	Thoracic Cancer	2	190-195	2011

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藤岡俊一郎, 保坂茂, 尾澤直美, 南恵理, 柴田真希, 原久男, 梶尾裕, 岸本美也子, 野田光彦, 河内正治	第25回 重症心疾患を合併した慢性腎不全の2例 国立国際医療研究センター病院 生活習慣病症例検討会から	医療	65(11)	579-584	2011
河内正治	BAL(今月の用語)	医療	65(8)	446	2011
澤智裕, 小野勝彦, 赤池孝章	活性酸素・一酸化窒素によるニトロ化シグナルと抗炎症作用	感染・炎症・免疫	41	12-19	2011
河内正治	「各国の医療事情」.ベトナムの医療事情-厚生労働省科学研究費研究班を通じてのベトナム医療との関わり-	日本臨床麻酔学会誌	31(4)	620-628	2011
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河内正治	吸入麻酔薬によるICU Sedation.	臨床麻酔	35(10)	1529-36	2011
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佐藤敬太, 本間 栄	ANCA関連血管炎の肺病変-MPAの肺病変を中心に	医学のあゆみ	236	765-769	2011
高尾信一, 原三千丸, 岡崎富男, 鈴木和男	ヒト呼吸器系ウイルスの検出における呼吸器系ウイルス多項目同時解析アッセイ (Luminex xTAG Respiratory Viral Panel FAST Assay) の有用性の検討	感染症誌	85	31~36	2011

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中島典子、佐多徹太郎	鳥インフルエンザウイルスのヒトへの感染とその病態	鶏病研究会会報	47	71-77	2011
杉野圭史、本間 栄	Hermansky-Pudlak症候群と間質性肺炎	呼吸	30	371-378	2011
本間 栄、村松陽子	IPFの治療-2)N-アセチルシステイン(N-acetylcysteine)-.	呼吸器内科	19	575-582	2011
工藤大介、久志本成樹、川上和義	病態生理, 第2章 病態生理「新しい診断と治療のABC 肺炎 改訂第2版」	最新医学別冊		39-45	2011
岡本竜哉, 居原秀, 赤池孝章	喫煙と酸化ストレス : Oxidative stress induced by cigarette smoking.	最新精神医学. 特集号「精神障害者と喫煙」	16	431-494	2011
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本間 栄	特発性肺線維症の最新治療	難病と在宅ケア	16	32-35	2011
杉野圭史, 石田文昭, 高井雄二郎, 渋谷和俊, 植草利公、本間 栄	関節リウマチの治療中に発症した好酸球性肺炎の1例	日胸	70	1167-1175	2011
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後町杏子、坂本 晋、笹本修一、渋谷和俊、高木啓吾、本間 栄	3D-CTにより診断し、異常血管のみの切除にて治癒した肺底動脈大動脈起始症の1例	日呼吸会誌	49	221-225	2011
本間 栄	Kartagener症候群における細気管支炎	日本医事新報	4567	50-52	2011

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徳橋英美子、阪口真之、磯部和順、杉野圭史、羽鳥努、本間 栄	ゲフィチニブ投与前にL858RとT790MのEGFR遺伝子変異を認めた原発性肺癌の1剖検例.	肺癌	51	84-88	2011
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T. Aoyagi, N. Yamamoto, M. Hatta, D. Tanno, A. Miyazato, K. Ishii, K. Suzuki, T. Nakayama, M. Taniguchi, H. Kunishima, Y. Hirakata, M. Kaku, K. Kawakami.	Activation of pulmonary invariant NKT cells lead to exacerbation of acute lung injury caused by lipopolysaccharide through local production of IFN- γ and TNF- α by Gr-1+ monocytes.	International Immunol.	33	442-455	2010
Tomohiro Sawa, Hiorokazu Arimoto, Takaaki Akaike.	Regulation of redox signaling involving chemical conjugation of protein thiols by nitric oxide and electrophiles.	Bioconjug Chem	21	1121-1129	2010
Hidenori YASUDA, Nobuaki YOSHIZAWA, Masaaki MATSUMOTO, Shoji KAWACHI, Kazuo SUZUKI.	Transmission of Pandemic H1N1 Influenza in Japan in 2009: Simulated Measures and Post-Analysis.	EASIAM Conference	6	110-116	2010
Sakamoto S, Homma S, Miyamoto A, Kurosaki A, Fujii T, Yoshimura K	Cyclosporin A treatment in acute exacerbation of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.	Intern Med	49	109-115	2010
Hori J, Taniguchi H, Wang M, Oshima M, Azuma M	GITR ligand-mediated local expansion of regulatory T cells contributes to immune privilege of corneal allografts.	Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.	51	6556-65	2010
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藤井重元、澤智裕、赤池孝章.	8-Nitro-cGMPの発見と生理機能の解明	化学と生物	48	22-27	2010
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岡本竜哉、赤池孝章.	呼吸器疾患における酸化ストレスと制御シグナルの分子基盤: Molecular mechanisms of nitric oxide- and reactive oxygen species-mediated signalings in the respiratory diseases.	呼吸	29	859-866	2010
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高病原性鳥インフル エンザの診断・治療 に関する国際連携研 究班	重症新型インフルエンザ診 断と治療の手引-鳥インフル エンザウイルスは、ヒトに 感染する-	河内正治	鳥インフル エンザウイルス がヒトに感染 するとどうな るか	メディカ ル・サイエ ンス・イン ターナショ ナル	東京	2013	
河内正治	肺疾患	丸山道夫、 山東勤弥、 保木昌徳	経腸栄養マ ニュアル	文光堂	東京	2012	180-186
河内正治	急性呼吸窮迫症候群、急性 肺障害	吉澤篤人、 杉山温人	レジデントの ための呼吸器 内科ポケット 分区	中山書店	東京	2012	42-49
河内正治	吸入麻酔薬	天羽敬祐	麻酔科学レ ビュー2011	総合医学社	東京	2012	63-69
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本間栄	特発性間質性肺炎	日本呼吸器学 会びまん性肺 疾患診断・治 療ガイドライ ン作成委員会 編	診断と治療の 手引き 改訂 第2版	南江堂	東京	2011	
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大島正道	SARS	桂義元、河本宏、小安重夫、山本一彦	免疫の辞典	朝倉書店	東京	2011	212
大島正道	種痘	桂義元、河本宏、小安重夫、山本一彦	免疫の辞典	朝倉書店	東京	2011	244
大島正道	垂直感染／水平感染	桂義元、河本宏、小安重夫、山本一彦	免疫の辞典	朝倉書店	東京	2011	255
大島正道	レトロウイルス	桂義元、河本宏、小安重夫、山本一彦	免疫の辞典	朝倉書店	東京	2011	450
大島正道	SARS	桂義元、河本宏、小安重夫、山本一彦	免疫の辞典	朝倉書店	東京	2011	212
大島正道	種痘	桂義元、河本宏、小安重夫、山本一彦	免疫の辞典	朝倉書店	東京	2011	244
大島正道	垂直感染／水平感染	桂義元、河本宏、小安重夫、山本一彦	免疫の辞典	朝倉書店	東京	2011	255
大島正道	レトロウイルス	桂義元、河本宏、小安重夫、山本一彦	免疫の辞典	朝倉書店	東京	2011	450

Low-dose Interferon- α Treatment Improves Survival and Inflammatory Responses in a Mouse Model of Fulminant Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

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Abstract—Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) is accompanied by severe lung inflammation induced by various diseases. Despite the severity of symptoms, therapeutic strategies for this pathologic condition are still poorly developed. Interferon (IFN)- α is well known as an antiviral cytokine and low-dose IFN- α has been reported to show antiinflammatory effects. Therefore, we investigated how this cytokine affected ARDS in a mouse model. C57BL/6 mice received sequential intratracheal administration of α -galactosylceramide (α -GalCer) and lipopolysaccharide (LPS), which resulted in the development of fulminant ARDS. These mice were then treated intranasally with IFN- α and their survival, lung weight, pathological findings, and cytokine production were evaluated. Administration of low-dose IFN- α prolonged survival of fulminant ARDS mice, but higher doses of IFN- α did not. Histological analysis showed that low-dose IFN- α treatment improved findings of diffuse alveolar damage in fulminant ARDS mice, which was associated with reduction in the wet/dry (W/D) lung weight ratio. Furthermore, IFN- γ production in the lungs was significantly reduced in IFN- α -treated mice, compared with control mice, but tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- α production was almost equivalent for both groups. Low-dose IFN- α shows antiinflammatory and therapeutic effects in a mouse model of fulminant ARDS, and reduced production of IFN- γ in the lung may be involved in the beneficial effect of this treatment.

KEY WORDS: ARDS; IFN- α ; anti-inflammatory effects; IFN- γ ; NKT cells.

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INTRODUCTION

Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) is characterized as a diffuse lung injury with severe hypoxemia and a high rate of fatality even now, roughly 25–30 %, which develops under various pathogenic conditions [1]. Lung injury is triggered by inhalation of airborne causative agents, designated as direct lung injury, and develops in the context of systemic disorders such as sepsis, designated as indirect lung injury [2]. Direct lung injury has been reported to occur during infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus [3] or H5N1, a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus [4, 5]. The serum levels of interferon (IFN)- γ , tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- α , and IL-6 were

elevated in the cases of fatal human H5N1 influenza virus infection [6], and several cytokines, including TNF- α , IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-8, and IL-10 showed strikingly increased concentrations in the bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluids of these patients [7–9].

In animal models of direct lung injury induced by intratracheal administration of lipopolysaccharide (LPS), acute and robust influx of inflammatory cells into the lungs is observed but these inflammatory changes are completely resolved within 48 h, without demonstration of either alveolar epithelial injury or vascular leakage, typical histopathological features of ARDS [10, 11]. Recently, we reported an animal model of fulminant ARDS established by sensitizing mice with α -galactosylceramide (α -GalCer), a potent activator of natural killer T (NKT) cells, followed by a challenge with LPS [12]. In this model, all mice rapidly died with diffuse alveolar damage in the lungs, which was accompanied by a striking increase of IFN- γ and TNF- α concentrations in BAL fluids [12].

A variety of proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines, such as TNF- α , IL-1 β , IL-6, and IL-8, are reported to play critical roles in the pathogenic mechanism of ARDS [7–9], whereas lower production of antiinflammatory mediators such as IL-10 and IL-1 receptor antagonist is associated with the generally poor prognosis [13]. Based on an understanding of the involvement of these cytokines, various antiinflammatory agents, including corticosteroids [14, 15], statins [16], prostaglandin E1 [17], neutrophil elastase inhibitors [18], and inhibitors of arachidonic acid metabolism [19, 20], have been tested for their clinical efficacy in ARDS therapy. However, a truly efficacious agent has not yet been established.

Type I IFN, discovered as an endogenously synthesized antiviral protein [21], is deeply involved in acute and chronic inflammatory responses, including delayed-type hypersensitivity [22], experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis [23], and collagen-induced arthritis [24]. In addition to these nonantiviral actions, this cytokine inhibits division of certain tumor cell lines [25], promotes cytolytic activity of NK cells and T cells [26], and enhances expression of MHC molecules [27]. Thus, type I IFN has been gradually recognized as an important player in the cytokine network that leads to regulation of innate and acquired immune responses [21]. In clinical settings, type I IFN is used for the treatment of viral hepatitis and multiple sclerosis [21]. Recently, in animal experiments, antiinflammatory effects as a result of type I IFN administration have been reported in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis [28], rheumatoid arthritis [29], bacterial peritonitis [30], and lung inflammation [31].

With this background in mind, the present study addressed how type I IFNs affect the clinical course and inflammatory responses in our mouse model of fulminant ARDS sensitized with α -GalCer and challenged with LPS. We found that low-dose administration of IFN- α improved survival and attenuated inflammatory responses in fulminant ARDS mice and that these effects were associated with suppression of IFN- γ synthesis in the lung.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals

C57BL/6 mice were bred in a pathogen-free environment at the Institute for Animal Experimentation, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine. All mice were used for experiments at 7–8 weeks of age. All experimental protocols described in the present study were approved by the Ethics Review Committee for Animal Experimentation of Tohoku University.

Reagents

α -GalCer, purchased from Funakoshi (Tokyo, Japan), was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) at 5 mg/ml and then diluted with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) to a final dose of 0.4 % DMSO for *in vivo* use. LPS from *Escherichia coli* (O111: B4) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

Fulminant ARDS Model

To induce lung injury, mice were anesthetized by intraperitoneal injection of 70 mg/kg of pentobarbital (Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, IL, USA) and then restrained on a small board and 50 μ l of α -GalCer (1 μ g) was injected into each mouse by inserting a 24-gauge intravenous catheter (Terumo, Tokyo, Japan) into the trachea. Twenty-four hours later, 50 μ l of LPS (50 μ g) was administered via the same route. Sham-operated mice were injected with 0.4 % DMSO-containing PBS (dPBS) into the trachea and 24 h later, 50 μ l of PBS was administered via the same route.

Treatment with IFN- α

Recombinant human IFN- α /D was provided by the Nippon Roche Research Center (Kamakura, Japan). Mice were administered various amounts of IFN- α intranasally at various time intervals after LPS injection.

Antiinflammatory Effects of IFN- α in ARDS

IFN- α was administrated intratracheally with LPS at the same time only at 0 h.

Wet/Dry Lung Weight Ratio

The lungs of mice treated with IFN- α or PBS were weighed 48 h after LPS challenge to determine the final wet lung weight. They were then dried in an oven at 60 °C for 48 h and weighed again to determine the dry weight. The wet/dry (W/D) weight ratio was then calculated.

Histological Examination

The lung specimens obtained from mice were fixed in 10 % buffered formalin, dehydrated, and embedded in paraffin. Sections were cut and stained with hematoxylin–eosin (HE) stains using standard staining procedures at the Biomedical Research Core, the Animal Pathology Platform of Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine. We measured histological evidence of tissue injury using the Lung Injury Scoring System recommended by the American Thoracic Society (ATS) [32]. Lung Injury Scoring System parameters include neutrophils in the alveolar space, neutrophils in the interstitial space, hyaline membranes, proteinaceous debris filling the airspaces, and alveolar septal thickening. At least 20 random high-power fields (400 \times total magnification) were independently scored in a blinded fashion. Each of five histological findings was graded using a three-tiered scheme that is summarized in Table 1. The sum of each of the five independent variables shown in Table 1 was weighted according to the relevance ascribed to each feature by the ATS Committee and then was normalized to the number of fields evaluated.

Table 1. Lung Injury Scoring System

Parameters	Score per field		
	0	1	2
A. Neutrophils in the alveolar space	None	1–5	>5
B. Neutrophils in the interstitial space	None	1–5	>5
C. Hyaline membranes	None	1	>1
D. Proteinaceous debris filling the airspaces	None	1	>1
E. Alveolar septal thickening	<2 \times	2 \times –4 \times	>4 \times

Score = $[(20 \times A) + (14 \times B) + (7 \times C) + (7 \times D) + (2 \times E)] / (\text{number of fields} \times 100)$. Reference: American Thoracic Society [34]

Preparation of BAL Fluids and Lung Homogenates

Mice were sacrificed at 6 h after LPS exposure. Their chests were opened, their tracheae were cannulated (22 G I.V. catheter), and 1 ml of PBS was infused intratracheally and withdrawn. This procedure was performed three times. BAL fluids were stored at –80 °C until cytokines were measured. After collecting BAL fluids, pulmonary circulation was rinsed by injection of 3 ml PBS into the right ventricle. Lungs were then harvested and stored in 1.5 ml of PBS. The lungs in PBS were later homogenized and centrifuged at 1,600 rpm for 10 min at 4 °C, and the supernatants were stored at –80 °C until cytokines were measured.

Measurement of Cytokine Concentrations

The concentrations of IFN- γ and TNF- α in the supernatants of lung homogenates and BAL fluids were measured by ELISA using capture and biotinylated developing antibodies (BD Biosciences, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA). The detection limits were 15 and 5 pg/ml, respectively.

Statistical Analysis

Analysis of data was conducted using JMP Pro® 9.0.2 software (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA) on a Macintosh computer. Data are expressed as mean \pm SD. Statistical analysis between groups was performed using analysis of variance with a *post hoc* analysis (Fisher’s protected least significant difference test). Survival data were analyzed using the logrank test. A *p* value <0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS

Effect of IFN- α on the Survival of Fulminant ARDS Mice

In our earlier studies [12], intratracheal administration of LPS following sensitization with α -GalCer led to the development of fulminant ARDS in mice, which caused fatal outcomes within 72 h after LPS injection. In the current study, we investigated whether IFN- α affected the clinical course of fulminant ARDS mice. For this purpose, mice were treated with various doses of IFN- α (100 IU, 1,000 IU, and 10,000 IU/mouse) or with PBS as a vehicle control 12 h before, simultaneously, and 24 h, 48 h, and 72 h after LPS injection. As shown in Fig. 1, all mice treated with PBS died within

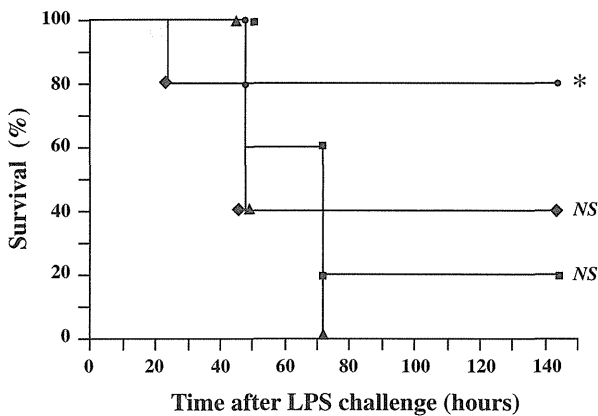


Fig. 1. Effect of IFN- α treatment on the survival of fulminant ARDS mice. Mice received intratracheal instillation of LPS 24 h after administration of α -GalCer via the same route. These mice were treated with various doses of IFN- α or PBS as a control 12 h before (intranasally: i.n.), simultaneously (intratracheally), and 24 h (i.n.), 48 h (i.n.) and 72 h (i.n.) after LPS injection. The number of live mice was counted every 24 h after the LPS challenge. Each group consisted of five mice. Circles IFN- α 100 IU, squares IFN- α 1,000 IU, diamonds IFN- α 10,000 IU, triangles PBS. NS not significant; * P <0.05 compared with PBS-treated mice.

72 h, whereas treatment with low-dose IFN- α , 100 IU/mouse, significantly prolonged the survival duration of fulminant ARDS mice. However, higher doses of IFN- α (1,000 IU and 10,000 IU/mouse) did not prolong survival. These results demonstrated that low-dose, but not high-dose, IFN- α protected mice from death caused by fulminant ARDS.

Effect of Low-dose IFN- α Treatment on Lung Injury in Fulminant ARDS Mice

Next, we addressed the effect of IFN- α administration on lung injuries developed in fulminant ARDS mice by conducting histopathological analyses. Using the results illustrated in Fig. 1 as a basis, α -GalCer-sensitized and LPS-challenged mice were treated with low-dose IFN- α (100 IU/mouse) or PBS, and lung sections stained with HE were analyzed under a microscope 72 h after LPS challenge. As shown in Fig. 2, massive infiltration of neutrophils not only into the intraalveolar septa but also into the alveolar spaces was observed in the α -GalCer-sensitized and LPS-challenged mice that received PBS treatment, whereas these inflammatory responses were strikingly attenuated when mice were treated with low-dose IFN- α . For an objective evaluation of the inflammatory changes, we quantified the histological changes of the tissue injuries using a Lung Injury Scoring System. As

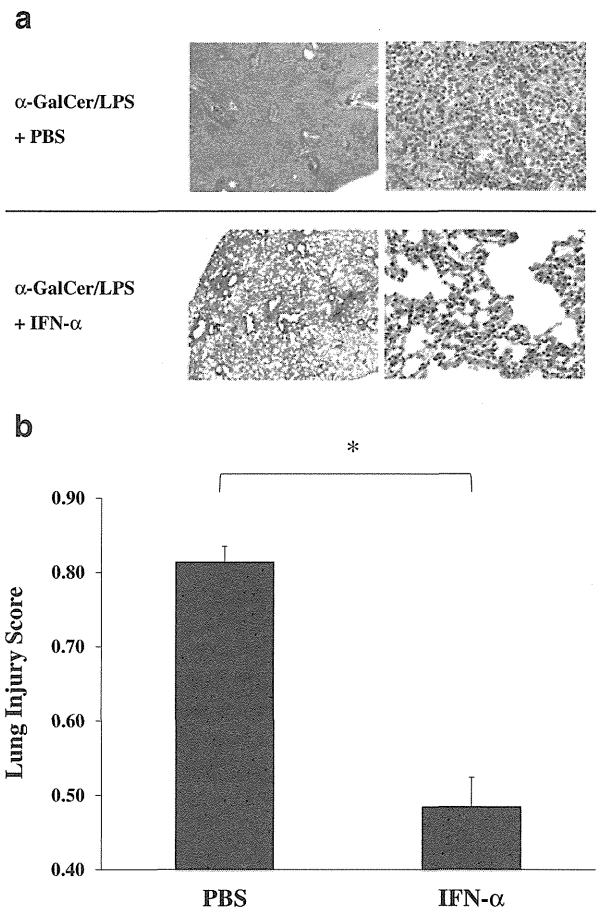


Fig. 2. Effect of low-dose IFN- α treatment on histological changes in fulminant ARDS mice. Mice received intratracheal instillation of LPS 24 h after administration of α -GalCer via the same route (α -GalCer/LPS). These mice were treated with IFN- α (100 IU) or PBS 12 h before (intranasally: i.n.), simultaneously (intratracheally), and 24 h (i.n.) and 48 h (i.n.) after LPS injection. Sections of lungs 72 h after LPS challenge were stained with hematoxylin and eosin and observed under a light microscope. Representative pictures of three mice are shown at magnifications of $\times 40$ (left) and $\times 400$ (right).

shown in Fig. 2b, the lung injury scores were significantly lower in low-dose IFN- α -treated mice than those in control mice. These results indicate that low-dose IFN- α effectively inhibited the development of FARDS caused by α -GalCer sensitization and LPS challenge.

In addition, to evaluate the degree of lung edema, a characteristic of ARDS, we examined W/D lung weight ratios 48 h after LPS challenge. As Fig. 3 shows, the W/D lung weight ratios were significantly lower in mice treated with IFN- α than in PBS-treated mice, and the levels in the former mice were almost equivalent to

Antiinflammatory Effects of IFN- α in ARDS

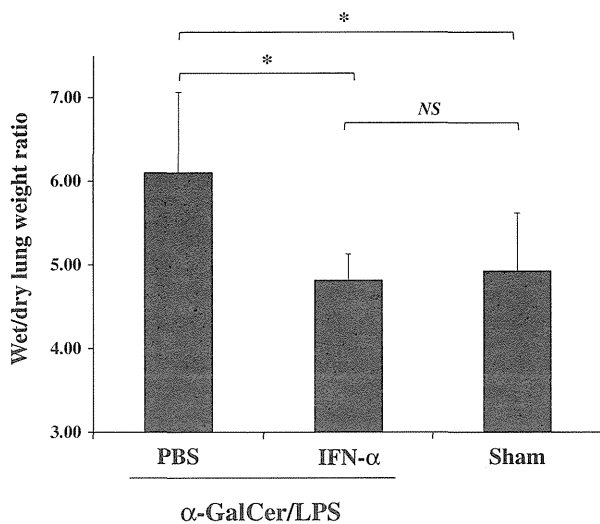


Fig. 3. Effect of low-dose IFN- α treatment on lung edema in fulminant ARDS mice. Mice received intratracheal instillation of LPS 24 h after administration of α -GalCer via the same route (α -GalCer/LPS). In a sham group, mice received intratracheal instillation of PBS 24 h after administration of PBS via the same route (sham). The wet and dry lung weight ratio was examined 48 h after challenge injection of LPS or PBS. Each column represents the mean \pm SD of five mice. NS not significant; * P <0.05.

those in sham-operated mice. These results clearly demonstrated that low-dose IFN- α treatment mitigated the development of fulminant ARDS by attenuating inflammatory responses in the lung.

Effect of Low-dose IFN- α Treatment on Cytokine Synthesis in the Lungs

To further investigate the mechanism for the beneficial effects of IFN- α on fulminant ARDS, we evaluated the synthesis in the lungs of IFN- γ and TNF- α , both of which were reported as critical cytokines in our mouse model of fulminant ARDS [12]. For this purpose, concentrations of these cytokines in BAL fluids and lung homogenates were measured 6 h after LPS challenge. As shown in Fig. 4a, treatment with low-dose IFN- α significantly reduced the IFN- γ levels in both BAL fluids and lung homogenates in α -GalCer-sensitized and LPS-challenged mice, compared to those in PBS-treated mice, and the IFN- γ levels in the lung homogenates of IFN- α -treated mice were almost as low as those in sham-operated mice. TNF- α synthesis in the lung, as determined by assay of BAL fluids and lung homogenates, was also augmented in mice sensitized with α -GalCer and challenged with LPS. In striking

contrast to the observed impact upon IFN- γ levels, low-dose IFN- α treatment did not reduce the synthesis of TNF- α in the lung, measured by assaying the two types of lung specimens (Fig. 4b).

DISCUSSION

In the present study, we demonstrated that (1) administration of low-dose IFN- α prolonged the survival of fulminant ARDS mice sensitized with α -GalCer and challenged with LPS, but high dose IFN- α did not provide this benefit; (2) low-dose IFN- α treatment attenuated the diffuse alveolar damage that occurs as a consequence of massive infiltration of neutrophils, a typical histological feature of ARDS, and it reduced the W/D lung weight ratio, an indicator of lung edema, compared to that in the PBS-treated group; and (3) low-dose IFN- α treatment led to decreased production of IFN- γ , but not of TNF- α , according to assays of BAL fluids and lung homogenates in fulminant ARDS mice. These results indicate that low-dose IFN- α has an antiinflammatory and therapeutic effect in a mouse model of fulminant ARDS and suggest that reduced production of IFN- γ in the lungs may be involved in the beneficial effects of this treatment.

Infection with H5N1, a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus, is reported to cause fulminant ARDS with histopathologically defined diffuse alveolar damage in the lung, which is often refractory even to advanced medical therapy [4, 5]. This pathogenic condition is associated not only with viral replication in bronchial epithelial cells but also with uncontrolled production of inflammatory cytokines, the so-called "cytokine storm" in the lungs that is associated with a fatal outcome in many cases [4, 32]. Thus, control of excessive inflammatory responses may provide an effective therapeutic target against fulminant ARDS caused by the H5N1 influenza virus. Type I IFNs are synthesized and secreted by virus-infected cells, which upregulate the expression of antiviral genes and render the host resistant to this infection [21]. Recently, Haasbach *et al.* demonstrated that low-dose type I IFN treatment was effective in protecting mice from infection with H5N1 influenza virus [33]. Though this effect is thought to be due to the antiviral activity of type I IFN, it remains unanswered whether this treatment leads to suppression of the inflammatory response at the infected sites. In the present study, on the other hand, we examined the effect of type I IFN treatment on the fulminant ARDS developed by a

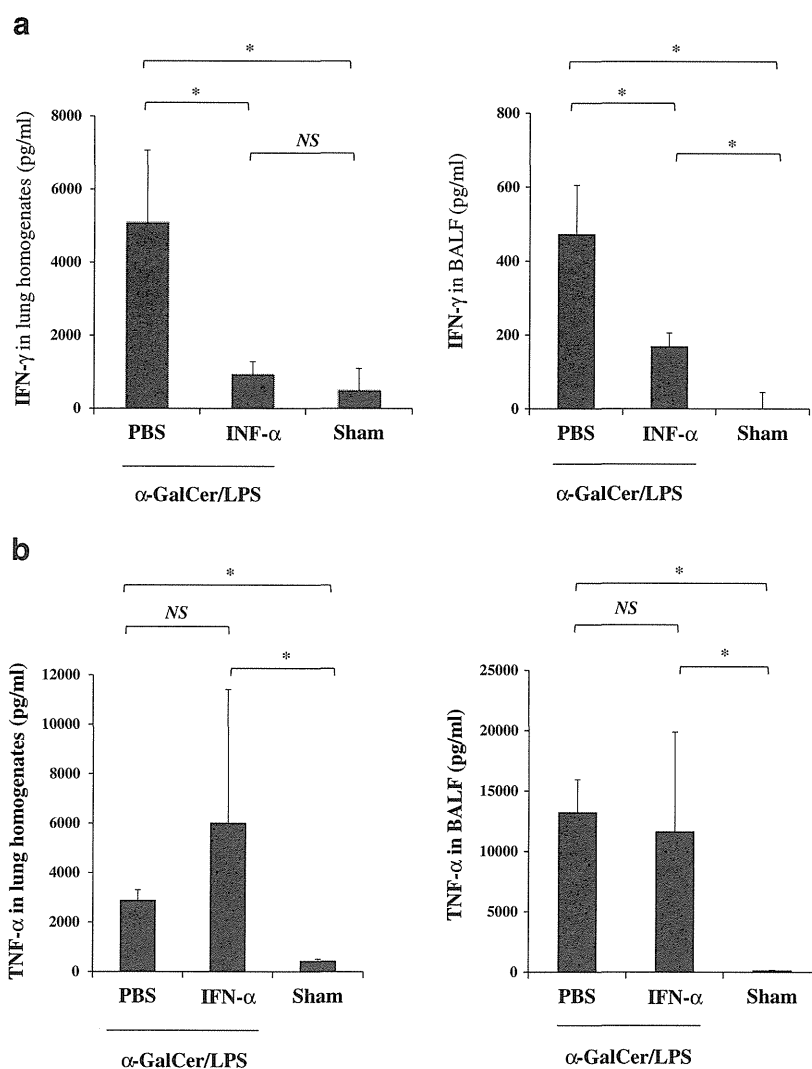


Fig. 4. Effect of low-dose IFN- α treatment on cytokine synthesis in fulminant ARDS mice. Mice received intratracheal instillation of LPS 24 h after administration of α -GalCer via the same route (α -GalCer/LPS). In a sham group, mice received intratracheal instillation of PBS 24 h after administration of PBS via the same route (sham). These mice were treated with IFN- α (100 IU) or PBS 12 h before (intranasally: i.n.) and simultaneously (intratracheally) after LPS injection. The concentrations of IFN- γ and TNF- α in lung homogenates and BAL fluids were measured 6 h after challenge injection of LPS or PBS. Each column represents the mean \pm SD of four or five mice. NS not significant; * P <0.05.

mechanism unrelated to viral infection, which may aid in an understanding of its therapeutic potential via an antiinflammatory effect separate from antiviral activity, although it remains unclear if our model is valid for analyzing the pathogenic mechanism of fulminant ARDS caused by influenza virus infection and other clinically important conditions.

In animal models of bacterial peritonitis [30] and acute lung injury associated with subarachnoid hemorrhage [31], high-dose IFN- β was used to demonstrate

antiinflammatory effects. However, the present study showed that low-dose IFN- α was effective in extending the survival time of fulminant ARDS mice. The antiinflammatory effects of lower doses of IFN- α , as recognized in our current study, have been reported in previous investigations in various animal models of inflammatory diseases [33–37]. In *in vitro* experiments by Amadori *et al.* [38], IFN- α was shown to suppress the expression of a TNF- α gene by swine alveolar macrophages at dosages as low as 0.5 IU/ml. The same

investigators also reported that orally administered IFN- α suppressed the expression of inflammatory cytokines such as IFN- γ , TNF- α , and IL-6 after weaning in piglets [39]. In contrast, in cattle, parenteral administration of high-dose, but not low-dose IFN- α , actually promoted inflammatory responses [40]. Taken together with these previous studies, our present findings suggest that low-dose administration of IFN- α may exert antiinflammatory effects by inhibiting the production of proinflammatory cytokines, although the precise mechanism remains to be elucidated.

Several mechanisms have been proposed to explain the antiinflammatory effects of type I IFN. In previous studies by Quin *et al.*, interaction of IFN- β with its receptor was shown to trigger the induction of suppressor of cytokine signaling 1 (SOCS1), which then regulated IFN- γ synthesis by inhibiting the signal transducer and activator of transcription (STAT1 α) [41]. Other investigators have also reported that the antiinflammatory effects of type I IFNs are mediated by the production of IL-10 [42] and by suppressing TNF- α synthesis through the generation of tristetruprolin (TTP), an antiinflammatory protein [43]. In our study, the antiinflammatory effects of IFN- α were not associated with alteration of TNF- α synthesis, unlike the remarkable reduction of IFN- γ synthesis, and IL-10 was not detected in the lungs of mice in any of the groups (data not shown). In agreement with these results, we previously reported on the critical role of IFN- γ , rather than TNF- α , which role was limited, in the pathogenesis of fulminant ARDS developed in α -GalCer-sensitized and LPS-challenged mice. In this model, NKT cells and Gr-1⁺ monocytes were involved in the synthesis of IFN- γ [12]. These findings raise the possibility that IFN- α may ameliorate the effects of fulminant ARDS by accelerating SOCS1 activation, which leads to the suppression of IFN- γ synthesis by NKT cells and Gr-1⁺ monocytes. However, in the present study, attempts to address the precise mechanism in the beneficial effect of IFN- α remain to be made, and further investigation is needed to clarify this possibility.

In conclusion, we demonstrated that low-dose IFN- α improved the survival of fulminant ARDS mice that were sensitized with α -GalCer and challenged with LPS by suppressing the production of IFN- γ and subsequent inflammatory responses. These results suggest that this cytokine could be a possible therapeutic option for ARDS, which is refractory even to advanced medical therapies currently available in clinical settings. In general, higher doses of type I IFNs are administered to patients with

hepatitis virus infection and multiple sclerosis [44–46]. However, higher dose treatments are known to be associated with various adverse effects such as chills, fever, muscle aches, headaches, and depression. In this respect, less frequent adverse effects might be expected as an additional benefit of lower dose IFN- α treatment. Thus, the present study may provide a significant impetus for further development of promising ARDS treatments.

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Conflict of interest None.

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Pathological study of archival lung tissues from five fatal cases of avian H5N1 influenza in Vietnam

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Highly pathogenic avian H5N1 influenza virus (H5N1) infection in humans causes acute respiratory distress syndrome, leading to multiple organ failure. Five fatal cases of H5N1 infection in Vietnam were analyzed pathologically to reveal virus distribution, and local proinflammatory cytokine and chemokine expression profiles in formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded lung tissues. Our main histopathological findings showed diffuse alveolar damage in the lungs. The infiltration of myeloperoxidase-positive and/or CD68 (clone KP-1)-positive neutrophils and monocytes/macrophages was remarkable in the alveolar septa and alveolar spaces. Immunohistochemistry revealed that H5N1 mainly infected alveolar epithelial cells and monocytes/macrophages in lungs. H5N1 replication was confirmed by detecting H5N1 mRNA in epithelial cells using *in situ* hybridization. Quantitation of H5N1 RNA using quantitative reverse transcription PCR assays revealed that the level of H5N1 RNA was increased in cases during early phases of the disease. We quantified the expression of tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α), interleukin (IL)-6, IL-8, regulated on activation normal T-cell expressed and secreted (commonly known as RANTES), and interferon-gamma-inducible protein of 10 kDa (IP-10) in formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded lung sections. Their expression levels correlated with H5N1 RNA copy numbers detected in the same lung region. Double immunofluorescence staining revealed that TNF- α , IL-6, IL-8 and IP-10 were expressed in epithelial cells and/or monocytes/macrophages. In particular, IL-6 was also expressed in endothelial cells. The dissemination of H5N1 beyond respiratory organs was not confirmed in two cases examined in this study.

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Since the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian H5N1 influenza virus infection in humans in 2003, the WHO has reported 608 confirmed cases from 15 countries, with a mortality rate of about 60% by August 2012 (http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/EN_GIP_20120810CumulativeNumberH5N1cases.pdf). The potential for mutation

and reassortment of the viral genome, which may be responsible for human-to-human transmission, has increased the threat of an influenza pandemic.

Many H5N1-infected patients develop acute respiratory distress syndrome and die because of respiratory failure or multiple organ failure.^{1,2} Pathological study of autopsied cases revealed that the H5N1 virus infected type I and type II pneumocytes and caused primary viral pneumonia, which further developed into acute respiratory distress syndrome.^{3–18} Although seasonal influenza virus infection is also associated with pneumonia, the virus mainly infects epithelial cells of the upper respiratory tract.^{19–21} Complications involving

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