Ex vivo Efficacy of Adoptive T cell Therapy using Autologous CD8⁺ T cells isolated by PD-1 Positivity from Peripheral Blood Mononuclear cells in Solid Tumors

Sungkyu Lee¹, Jieun Lee², Seung Ki Kim³, Isaac Kim³, Yang-Guk Chung⁴, Kyung Soo Kim⁵, Yong H. Park⁶, Rho H. Seong¹, and Yong Wha Moon⁷

¹School of Biological Sciences and Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea ²Division of Medical Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Korea ³Department of Surgery, CHA Bundang Medical Center, CHA University, Seongnam, Korea ⁴Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Korea ⁶MedGene Therapeutics, Silver Spring, MD, USA ⁷Hematology and Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine, CHA University, CHA Bundang Medical Center, Seongnam, Korea

Abstract

Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes have been shown to display an antitumor activity in solid tumors including melanoma. Previously the proof of concept was developed that CD8⁺ T cells isolated by programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) receptor positivity from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs), recognized tumorspecific antigens and neoantigens, and thus were reactive to tumors. We evaluated ex vivo efficacy of autologous, tumor-reactive CD8+ T cells isolated by PD-1 positivity from PBMCs of breast cancer, ovarian cancer and leiomyosarcoma patients. Autologous PD-1⁺CD8⁺ T cells isolated from PBMCs of a few cancer patients displayed efficient antitumor activity in our established ex vivo models for adoptive cell therapy. Our results warrant further clinical development for adoptive T cell therapy in various types of cancers.

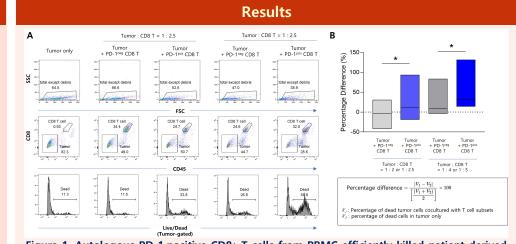
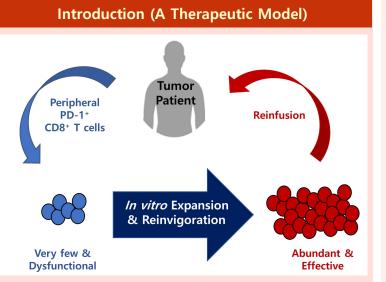


Figure 1. Autologous PD-1 positive CD8⁺ **T cells from PBMC efficiently killed patient-derived tumor cells compared to PD-1 negative CD8**⁺ **T cells in the breast cancer** (A and B) Flow cytometric analysis of the killing ability of autologous CD8 T cell subsets from PBMC against ex vivo cultured breast cancer cells. Representative FACS data are shown in A, and pooled data with mean ± sem from 6 independent experiments are shown in B. Statistical Analysis was performed using paired two-tailed t test (*p < 0.05)



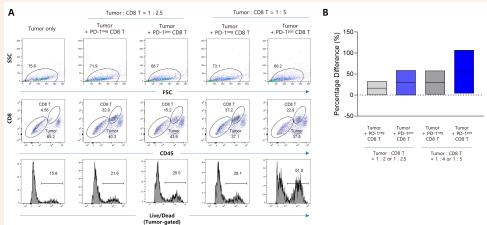


Figure 2. Autologous PD-1 positive CD8⁺ T cells from PBMC efficiently killed patient-derived tumor cells compared to PD-1 negative CD8⁺ T cells in the ovarian cancer (A and B) Flow cytometric analysis of the killing ability of autologous CD8 T cell subsets from PBMC against ex vivo cultured ovarian cancer cells. Representative FACS data are shown in A, and pooled data with mean ± sem from 2 independent experiments are shown in B.

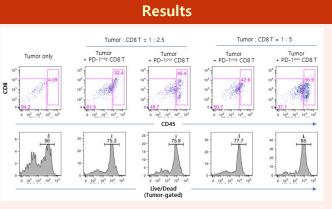


Figure 3. Autologous PD-1 positive CD8⁺ T cells from PBMC efficiently killed patient-derived tumor cells compared to PD-1 negative CD8⁺ T cells in leiomyosarcoma

Flow cytometric analysis of the killing ability of autologous CD8 T cell subsets from PBMC against ex vivo cultured leiomyosarcoma cells.

Conclusions

- 1. We have successfully established ex vivo models for adoptive cell therapy using autologous PD-1 positive CD8⁺ T cells.
- We demonstrated that circulating PD-1 positive CD8⁺ T cells from patients with breast cancer, ovarian cancer and leiomyosarcoma exhibit potent killing activity against autologous tumor cells compared to their PD-1 negative CD8⁺ T cell counterparts.
- 3. Adoptive T cell therapy using patient-derived peripheral blood PD-1 positive CD8⁺T cells can extend clinical application into varied types of solid tumors, which represents a promising strategy of personalized cancer immunotherapy.