

Abstract

[Objective] CD8⁺ T cells from HIV-1-infected individuals possess HIV-1 suppressive activity in both MHC-I-restricted and -unrestricted manner. In addition, alloantigen-stimulated CD8⁺ T cells can suppress HIV-1 replication by MHC-I-unrestricted and cell contact-dependent mechanism, but its mechanism is not fully understood. The aim of this study is to elucidate the suppressive mechanism for HIV-1 replication in CD4⁺ T cells induced by alloantigen-stimulated CD8⁺ T cells.

[Methods] Alloantigen-stimulated CD8⁺ T cells (Raji-CD8⁺ T cells) were cultured with autologous HIV-1-infected or -uninfected CD4⁺ T cells. PHA-stimulated CD8⁺ T cells were used as control. Nuclear and cytoplasmic extracts were prepared from the isolated CD4⁺ T cells, and used for the analysis of transcription factors by EMSA and Western-blotting. I also analyzed surface molecules on Raji-CD8⁺ T cells by flowcytometry to identify the HIV-1 suppressive molecule.

[Results] Raji-CD8⁺ T cells suppressed HIV-1 replication, and inhibited NF-κB p65 and Ets-1 nuclear translocation in HIV-1-infected CD4⁺ T cells in a cell contact-dependent manner. I found that NF-κB and Ets DNA-binding activity were reduced, and nuclear translocation of phospho-NF-κB p65 (Ser276) and Ets-1 was inhibited in CD4⁺ T cells cultured with Raji-CD8⁺ T cells. ICAM-1 expression was higher on Raji-CD8⁺ T cells than on PHA-CD8⁺ T cells. Neutralization of ICAM-1 on CD8⁺ T cells or stimulation of LFA-1 on CD4⁺ T cells did not affect the nuclear translocation of NF-κB p65, suggesting that ICAM-1 was not a primarily responsible molecule for the inhibition of HIV-1 replication.

[Conclusion] Inhibition of nuclear translocation of phospho-NF-κB p65 (Ser276) and Ets-1 plays important roles in suppression of HIV-1 replication in CD4⁺ T cells co-cultured with alloantigen-stimulated CD8⁺ T cells.