

Poster presentation

***In vitro* and *in vivo* determination of anti-TNF α activity in canine plasma from donors subject to preconditioning with endotoxin**

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Critical Care 2007, **11**(Suppl 4):P23 doi:10.1186/cc6002

The electronic version of this article is the complete one and can be found online at:
<http://ccforum.com/content/11/S4/P23>

Published: 26 September 2007

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Background

Septic shock is characterized by cardiovascular and vasomotor failure that is induced by an uncontrolled cascade of inflammatory mediators such as TNF α , IL-1 β and IL-6. In dogs, systemic bacterial infections, haemorrhage, trauma, gastric dilatation/volvulus and pancreatitis are the major causes of septic shock. While endotoxin is a recognized effector molecule that can initiate an inflammatory cascade, it has been reported that preconditioning with endotoxin can downregulate inflammatory cytokine responses to subsequent endotoxin challenge. This study reports the effect of endotoxin preconditioning on anti-TNF α activity present in plasma from canine donors.

Materials and methods

Plasma from preconditioned (Caniplas[®]) and normal dogs (FFP) was provided blind to the study by a commercial supplier (Plasvacc Pty Ltd). *In vitro* anti-TNF α activity in canine donor plasma was determined by a L929 murine cell TNF α inhibition bioassay using recombinant murine TNF α . *In vivo* effects were tested by a rat subcutaneous skin pouch model. Rats were pretreated for 3 days with either Caniplas[®], FFP, saline (2 ml/day, s.c.) or carprofen (5 mg/kg, s.c.) and inflammation was induced by

injecting monosodium urate crystals into the pouch (5 mg/ml in 5 ml saline). Fluid was taken from pouches at specified intervals for cell count, TNF α and IL-6 analysis. Data analysis: normalized data were fitted to a four-parameter logistic curve. The fitted midpoints were compared statistically for datasets using an F-test and calculated fitted hill slopes.

Results

In the rat skin pouch model, both Caniplas[®] and FFP reduced TNF α levels and Caniplas[®] was a more potent antagonist. The heightened anti-TNF α activity of Caniplas[®] compared with FFP was confirmed in the *in vitro* cell bioassay (Figure 1). Neither Caniplas[®] nor FFP reduced inflammatory cell infiltration or the levels of IL-6.

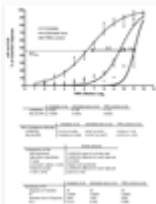


Figure 1. *In vitro* TNF α dose-response to canine sera.

Conclusion

While we need to confirm the mechanism, we report that preconditioning with endotoxin does illicit specific anti-TNF α activity and that this observation has been confirmed in both *in vitro* testing and *in vivo* animal models. It is plausible that preconditioning animals with endotoxin induces an increase in the concentration of soluble TNF α receptors I and II in donor plasma, and that this is the probable source of TNF α antagonism. This report suggests that preconditioned plasma may be a beneficial treatment where inflammation causes increased expression of TNF α .