B-10. Cellular and humoral immune responses to sequential periodon-topathic bacterial immunization in animal model

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Antigen-specific T cell clones were obtained from mice immunized with Fusobacterium nucleatum ATCC 10953(F. nucleatum) and/or Porphyromonas gingivalis 381(P. gingivalis). 10 Balb/c mice per group were immunized with F. nucleatum followed by P. gingivalis, or with P. gingivalis alone by intraperitoneal injection of viable microorganisms. Spleen T cells were isolated and stimulated in vitro with viable P. gingivalis cells to establish P. gingivalis-specific T cell clones. T cell phenotypes and cytokine profiles were determined along with T cell responsiveness to F. nucleatum or P. gingivalis, Serum IgG antibody titers to F. nucleatum or P. gingivalis were also determined by ELISA.

All the T cell clones derived from mice immunized with *F. nucleatum* followed by *P. gingivalis* demonstrated Th2 subsets, while those from mice immunized with *P. gingivalis* alone demonstrated Th1 subsets based on the flow cytometric analysis and cytokine profiles, All T cells clones from both groups were cross-reactive to both *P. gingivalis* and *F. nucleatum* antigens. Phenotypes of T cell clones were all positive for CD4. Mean post-immune serum IgG antibody levels to *F. nucleatum* or *P. gingivalis* were significantly higher than the pre-immune levels(p (0.01, respectively). There were no significant differences in the antibody titers between the two groups. It was concluded that *P. gingivalis*-specific T cells initially primed by cross-reactive *F. nucleatum* antigens were polarized to Th2 subsets, while T cells stimulated with *P. gingivalis* alone maintained the profile of Th1 subset.