Dysbiosis of the Gut Microbiota Is Associated with HIV Disease Progression and Tryptophan Catabolism

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Introduction

• Progression to AIDS during HIV infection is driven by chronically elevated T cell activation and chronic inflammation.
• Decreased gastrointestinal epithelial barrier integrity linked with accelerated disease.
• Increase in activation of the kynurenine pathway of tryptophan catabolism through IDO1 (indoleamin 2,3-dioxigenase 1) -> production of tryptophan catabolites that can inhibit differentiation of IL-17-secreting CD4⁺ T cells.
• Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) reduces viral load but often inflammation persists (IDO1, IL-6, interferon inducible protein 10 IP-10).

• Is the gut microbiota altered during HIV infection?
• Are alterations in gut microbiota associated with HIV disease progression?
Results

• Study cohort 34 male subjects
  – 6 viremic untreated (VU)
  – 18 virally suppressed (HAART) with var. CD4\(^+\) T cell recovery
  – 1 HIV long-term non-progressor
  – 9 controls

• Analyzed: Rectosigmoid biopsis and peripheral blood
• Microbial profiling: 16s ribosomal RNA high-density microarray (G3 PhyloChip)
Results

Fig. 1. Gut bacterial microbiota composition in HIV-infected VU subjects differs from that of HIV-uninfected risk-matched controls.
Results

- 33'951 Bacterial taxa identified
- 579 taxa enriched, 45 taxa depleted in VU subjects compared to HIV-
**Results**

**Fig. 3.** Bacterial community enriched in untreated infection associates with immunopathologic markers of HIV disease progression within HIV-infected subjects. (A)
Results

Fig. 3. Bacterial community enriched in untreated infection associates with immunopathologic markers of HIV disease progression within HIV-infected subjects. B + C
Fig. 4. Relative abundance of DMC members is diminished in HAART subjects compared to VU and falls along a spectrum of VU- or uninfected-like bacterial communities.
Results

Figure S5: HAART causes a shift in DMC composition toward the healthy, uninfected state in two subjects. (A) Two viremic, untreated (VU) subjects returned for follow-up after 9 months of successful HAART (as determined by sustained undetectable plasma viral load). The abundance of genera within the DMC diminished significantly in both subjects upon treatment, as determined by a two-tailed, paired T-test (**P < 5x10^-10). (B) PC1 values are shown for VU (top row), HIV-uninfected (bottom row), and two subjects who were sampled when viremic and untreated and then again after nine months of HAART (middle two rows).
Results

Of the dietary tryptophan that is not used in protein synthesis, 99% is metabolized along the kynurenine pathway (red arrows). Alternative pathways are the conversion of tryptophan to 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) and then to melatonin, or to tryptamine and then to the kynuramines (or kynurenaminic). 3-HAO, 3-hydroxyanthranilic acid oxidase; IDO, indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase; KAT, kynurenine aminotransferase; MAO, monoamine oxidase; QPRT, quinolinic-acid phosphoribosyl transferase; TDO, tryptophan 2,3-dioxygenase.
Fig. 5. Bacterial tryptophan catabolism machinery is genetically and functionally homologous to IDO1 enzymatic activity and is enriched in the DMC. (A)
Results

B + C + D

Percent of unique genera within each community that encode 3-4 enzymes in Trp catabolism pathway

\[ P = 0.037 \]

0% 5% 10%

Genera enriched in viremic, untreated HIV+ (VU)

Genera not exhibiting significant fold abundance differences between VU and HIV-

Fig. 5. Bacterial tryptophan catabolism machinery is genetically and functionally homologous to IDO1 enzymatic activity and is enriched in the DMC. B + C + D
Discussion /Conclusions

• Alterations in gut flora could be shown.
• Correlation of microbiota with disease marker. -> Mechanisms stay unclear
• Influence of reactive oxygen species, disturbance in microbial pattern recognition and immune cell dysregulation during HIV infection are not considered.
• Bacteria can catabolize tryptophan to immunomodulatory kynurenine derivatives.
• Potential role of kynurenine for barrier disruption.
• Role of host tryptophan metabolism? (Vitamin B6?)
T cell regulation mediated by interaction of soluble CD52 with the inhibitory receptor Siglec-10

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Introduction

- New suppressor T cell -> CD52^{hi} CD4^{+}
- CD52: CAMPATH-1 antigen, expressed on mature lymphocytes, monocytes/macrophages, dendritic cells, eosinophils, mast cells, epithelial cells lining the male reproductive tract and sperm cells.
- Anti-CD52 antibody Alemtuzumab kills target cells, used to treat chronic lymphocytic leukemia.
- Siglec10: Sialic acid-binding Ig-like lectin 10, expressed on monocytes, eosinophils, B cells, ITIM domain.
- Expressed on T cells? Loss of Siglec expression on T lymphocytes during human evolution
  
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- T cell regulation preventing autoimmune diseases?
Results

**Supplementary figure 1: CD52 expression distinguishes GAD65-specific CD4+ suppressor T cell clones.**

**a.** Proliferation of a GAD65-specific T cell clone (# 1.4) in the presence of an autologous GAD65-specific suppressor clone (# 3.19). A fixed number (25000) of GAD65-specific non-suppressor clone cells was co-cultured in 200 µl in round bottom 96-well plates with increasing numbers of an autologous GAD65-specific suppressor clone and irradiated PBMCs (1x10⁵) as antigen presenting cells, in the presence or absence of GAD65. 3H-thymidine uptake was measured after 72 h. The result is representative of multiple autologous suppressor and non-suppressor clone pairs as previously described.**

**b.** Flow cytometric histograms of CD52 expression by autologous GAD65-specific suppressor (solid line) and non-suppressor (dashed line) clones after overnight stimulation by plate-bound anti-CD3 antibody (1µg/ml). Staining by isotype control antibody is depicted in solid grey. The result is representative of clone pairs from 3 healthy individuals.
Results

Fig. 1

- **a**
  - Flow cytometry analysis of CD52 and GAD65 expression.
  - Comparison of H-thymidine uptake between + and - conditions.

- **b**
  - Graph showing IFN-γ (spots/well) in PBMC, Hi, Lo, Hi+Lo, Lo+Lo, and Hi+Lo calc.
  - Comparison between No Ag and GAD65.

- **c**
  - Graph showing IFN-γ (spots/well) in various conditions (Hi, Lo, Hi+Lo, Lo+Lo, Hi+Lo (1:1), Hi+Lo (1:2), Hi+Lo (1:4), Lo+Lo (1:1)).

- **d**
  - Graph showing IFN-γ (spots/well) in Hi, Lo, Hi+Lo, Lo+Lo, Hi+Lo calc conditions.

* indicates statistical significance.
Results

Fig. 1

![Graph showing results](image)

![Graph showing results](image2)

![Graph showing results](image3)

![Graph showing results](image4)
Results

Sup. Fig. 2

(a) Flow cytometry plots showing expression of CD25 and CD45RA/CD45RO in different cell populations.

(b) Bar graphs showing log (base 2) CD25/HPRT mRNA levels for different conditions.

(c) Bar graph showing IFN-γ (spots/well) in response to antigen stimulation.
Results

Fig. 2
Results

Sup. Fig. 3

IFN-γ (spots/well)

- No antigen
- TT

CD52\text{hi} CD52\text{hi} CD52\text{lo} CD52\text{lo}
CD24\text{lo} CD24\text{hi} CD24\text{lo} CD24\text{hi}
Results

Fig. 3
Results

Fig. 4
Results

Sup. Fig. 4

Fig. 5

a) CD52<sup>hi</sup> and CD52<sup>lo</sup>
   - TT
   - No Ag
   - TT
   - No Ag

b) PBMCs
   - CD52
   - No Ag
   - TT
   - TT + U73122
   - TT + veh

C) IFN-γ (spots/well)
   - No Ag
   - TT

D) IFN-γ (spots/well)
   - No Ag
   - TT

E) IFN-γ (spots/well)
   - No Ag
   - TT
   - GAD65
   - No Ag
   - TT
   - GAD65
   - No Ag
   - TT
   - GAD65
Results

Fig. 6
Results

Fig. 6

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Results

Fig. 7
Results

Sup. Fig. 6

% of maximum

Anti-CD3 antibody

Tetanus toxoid

No stimulus

Siglec-10
Discussion/Conclusions

- New T cell subset with suppressor activity.
- CD52 – Siglec-10 new receptor – ligand pair

Open questions
- How strong is Siglec-10 expressed on T cells?
- Interaction with cell bound CD52?
- CD8 suppressor cells?