Introduction to Monoclonal Antibodies:



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Learning Objectives

- Understand the FOUR basic Monoclonal Antibody (Mab) Types in the Clinic
- List the FOUR Major Mechanisms of Action of Mab
- Know the Differences Between the FOUR FcGamma Types
- Describe the FOUR Fc Gamma Receptors (FcgR)
- Introduce FOUR Modified Antibody Technologies
- Discuss FOUR Examples of Mab With Clinical Relevance

Where do monoclonal antibodies come from?



Antibody Structure



Hansel et. al, Nature Rev Drug Discovery, 2010: 9:325.

4 Kinds of Monoclonal Antibodies





1)CDC 2)Antagonist 3)ADCC 4)Agonist

Monoclonal antibodies have several potential mechanisms of action, including antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity, which involves recruitment of effector cells, mediated by Fcy receptors; complement-dependent cytotoxicity; and induction of apoptosis. FcR denotes Fc receptor, and mAb monoclonal antibody.

Rotschild et al, NEJM 2012



Complement Dependent Cytotoxicity (CDC)

- a) Requires antibody cross-linking / proximity
- b) Differential effects in humans with polymorphisms in C1Q
- Monoclonal antibodies rarely engineered to function via CDC

Hansel et. al, Nature Rev Drug Discovery, 2010: 9:325.

Antibody Dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity (ADCC)

a) Mediated by Natural Killer (NK) Cells,
Macrophages or Neutrophils

ADCC

lgG1

lgG3

Cell lysis

NK Cell

Fcy

receptor

- b) Killing requires binding to Fc Gamma Receptor(s)
 - a) Binding to Fc Gamma Receptors requires glycosylation
 - b) Increase ADCC by modifying glycosylation of Fc
 - c) Decrease ADCC using antibodies that lack glycosylation

Antagonism lgG4 lgG3 Ligand 8 Receptor

Antagonist (blocking)

- a) Can block EITHER a receptor OR a ligand
- b) Ligand may be soluble (like TNF α)
 - a) Fc function not desirable, usually use IgG4
 - b) Can eliminate ADC from IgG4 by decreasing Fc glycosylation

Signalling lgG4

Agonist (Signalling)

- Activating antibodies not so uncommon in cancer immunology
- b) Examples include OX40, 41BB, CD40 etc.

FOUR Major Fc Gamma Receptors (Human)



FOUR Considerations Regarding Mab Half-Life

- IgG3 = Short, hard to use
- IgG4 = Modify Hinge Region to Increase Half-Life
- Bind more strongly to recycling receptor FcRN = more recycling
 - LONGER half life
- Bind less strongly to FcRN = SHORTER half life

Modified Antibody Technologies

- TRAP molecules
- Single Chain, Dual Specificity, BiSpecific T-Cell Engager (BiTE)
- Chimeric Antigen Receptors
- ADC (Antibody Drug Conjugates)

TRAP Molecules (Aflibercept)



Single-Chain Dual Specificity (BiTE)



Chimeric Antigen Receptor



Antibody Drug Congugates (ADC)



Four Examples

- Rituximab
- Trastuzumab
- Urelumab
- Lambrolizumab

Rituximab (Rituxan)

"xi" = Chimeric

First Monoclonal Antibody Approve to Treat Cancer (1997) IgG1 (ADCC)



Trastuzumab (Herceptin)

"zu" = Humanized IgG1 MOA = prevent dimerization / ADCC



Urelumab (Anti-4-1BB)

"u" = Fully Human IgG4 Agonist In Phase I



Nivolumab (Anti-PD-1)

"u" = Fully Human

IgG4 with modified hinge region

Antagonist

In Phase III in RCC, Mel and NSCLC



Summary

- Monoclonal Antibodies = Drugs
- Prominent in Cancer Immunotherapy
- Novel Technologies In Development
- Engineered Modifications to Fc Region affect multiple properties

Recommended Reading

- 1. Sliwkowski, M.X. and I.Mellman. 2013. Antibody therapeutics in cancer. *Science* 341:1192-1198.
- 2. Nimmerjahn, F. and J.V.Ravetch. 2012. Translating basic mechanisms of IgG effector activity into next generation cancer therapies. *Cancer Immun.* 12:13.
- 3. Hansel, T.T., H.Kropshofer, T.Singer, J.A.Mitchell, and A.J.George. 2010. The safety and side effects of monoclonal antibodies. *Nat.Rev.Drug Discov.* 9:325-338.

Q1. While employed at a small Bethesda biotech, you use RNAseq to identify a novel cell surface molecule (BT1) that appears to you be exclusively expressed on big toe cancer cells. Seeking to treat cancer, you call your antibody engineering division and have them start developing a human:

- A. IgG4 antibody because you want to block signaling through BT1
- B. IgG1 antibody because you want to kill all cells expressing BT1
- C. IgG3 antibody optimized for CDCC
- D. High affinity antibody of any type, which you will later use to generate an antibody-drug conjugate (ADC)
- E. B or D

Q2. Your splendid engineering group generates a lovely IgG4 antibody with nice affinity to BT1, which you rapidly take to the clinic. Unfortunately, Phase I pharmokinetics data show that the antibody of that particular IgG4 is unfavorable, with a half-life of only 8 days *in vivo*. In order to increase half life they might:

- A. Substitute the natural hinge region with a modified version
- B. Make Fc modifications to increase binding to the recycling receptor FcRN
- C. Decrease binding to he recycling receptor
- D. Change approaches and generate a bi-specific antibody instead
- E. A or B