CORRECTION   *The Journal of Experimental Medicine*

Recently, we described bone marrow clones that could be induced to differentiate into T cells in vivo and in vitro (Palacios, R., M. Kiefer, M. Brockhaus, K. Karjalainen, Z. Dembić, P. Kisielow, and H. von Boehmer, "Molecular, cellular, and functional properties of bone marrow T lymphocyte progenitor clones." July 1987, 166:12). These clones expressed no detectable Lyt-2, L3T4, B220, sIg, or Ia but reacted with monoclonal antibodies recognizing the IL-2 receptor. Short (1.0–1.2 kb) T cell receptor γ chain, but no α or β chain transcripts were expressed. These clones grew in IL-3 but not in IL-1 or IL-2. It was noted that one clone, C4-86, did not repopulate irradiated mice of a particular strain. Also, intrathymic injection did not result in repopulation, even though injection of AKR bone marrow was effective. Moreover, two other independent clones with the above phenotype failed to repopulate irradiated mice.

After the above work was published, we performed more extensive analyses of C4-86 and several subclones that had been frozen at the time of the original experiments, as well as independently derived clones of the same phenotype. In none of the subsequent experiments did we see any repopulation of thymuses after intravenous injection of C4-86 cells in CBA mice, even though reconstitution with AKR bone marrow was always successful. In addition, three independently derived BALB/c clones of the described phenotype failed to colonize the thymus when injected intravenously into DBA/2 mice. Attempts to induce C4-86 and BALB/c clones in vitro with 5-azacytidine to express T cell–specific surface molecules also failed.

Thus, although procedures for obtaining clones of the described phenotype are quite reproducible, the developmental potential of such clones is not and was never observed in experiments conducted by P. Kisielow or H. von Boehmer. More stringent criteria for pro-T cells are required.

This correction was approved and signed by all of the authors.

2023