

Abstract

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FcIgG receptor-bearing lymphocytes and monoclonal antibody-defined T cell subsets in atopic dermatitis: effect of treatment with thymopoietin pentapeptide (TP-5).

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Abstract

Lymphocyte subpopulations were determined in the blood of patients with atopic dermatitis (AD) before and after treatment with the thymopoietin pentapeptide TP-5. The relative and absolute numbers of lymphocytes bearing suppressor/cytotoxic cell markers (FcIgG+E+ and T8+ cells) were significantly decreased in the untreated patients and the T4+/T8+ cell ratio was increased, indicating an imbalance between lymphocyte subpopulations in AD. Patients who had been treated for 6 weeks with TP-5 displayed no significant abnormality of any of the lymphocyte subsets studied and comparison of pre- and posttreatment values revealed that there was a statistically significant increase in T8+ cell numbers, that by contrast did not take place in placebo-treated AD patients. The treatment had no demonstrable effect on IgE serum levels or on the spontaneous in vitro production of IgE by cultured lymphocytes from the patients.

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