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## Abstract

Int Arch Allergy Appl Immunol. 1983;70(1):34-9.

# Immunopotential of cell-mediated hypersensitivity by *Corynebacterium parvum* (*Propionibacterium acnes*).

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## Abstract

We have investigated the activity of local *Corynebacterium parvum* (*Propionibacterium acnes*) as an immunopotential of allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) and photo-ACD in rodents. *C. parvum* given into the sensitization site, but not at a distance, increased the delayed-type hypersensitivity to the chemical allergen. An immunoadjuvant effect could be realized even when *C. parvum* was given several days after allergen; it was readily obtained in B cell-deficient mice.

Cyclophosphamide pretreatment heightened the immunopotential seen with local *C. parvum*. It is unlikely that the specific immunopotential by *C. parvum* is mediated by enhanced macrophage processing of antigen, as proposed by others, since *C. parvum* immunostimulation occurs just as well 2 days after allergen as on the same day as allergen. We hypothesize that a major mechanism of *C. parvum* immunopotential is the inhibition by stimulated macrophages of the generation of specific T suppressor cells.

PMID: 6848475 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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