

MINIREVIEW

The Role of Colony-Stimulating Factors in Host Defenses (43266)

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The colony-stimulating factors (CSF) are glycoproteins integrally involved in the production and activation of phagocytic cells. There are four well-defined CSF capable of stimulating the proliferation and differentiation of bone marrow-derived phagocytes *in vitro*. These four CSF were distinguished originally on the basis of the major cell type(s) they affected: interleukin 3 (IL-3, or multi-CSF) promotes the formation of granulocytes, eosinophils, and macrophages; granulocyte-macrophage CSF (GM-CSF) induces the formation of granulocytes and macrophages; macrophage CSF (M-CSF or CSF-1) induces macrophage formation, primarily; granulocyte CSF (G-CSF) stimulates neutrophil formation, primarily. In addition to the CSF, a number of other cytokines exhibit colony-stimulating activity. In particular, interleukin 5 (IL-5) acting alone and interleukin 1 (IL-1), interleukin 4 (IL-4), and interleukin 6 (IL-6) acting in synergy with the CSF have proliferative effects.

The phagocytes in the peripheral blood of normal individuals exhibit a relatively short half-life that ranges from several hours to a few days, necessitating the replenishment of phagocytes on a continual basis. The production of phagocytes *in vivo* appears to be at least partially dependent upon CSF activity. The CSF stimulate both the proliferation of pluripotential bone marrow stem cells and the differentiation of these stem cells to committed progenitor cells. The proliferation and further differentiation of committed progenitor cells to mature phagocytes is, in turn, mediated by CSF activity. The CSF also contribute to the accelerated production of phagocytes and the marked increase in white blood

cell count observed during infection. This increase in phagocytes constitutes a major mechanism of defense against invading microorganisms. In addition to increasing phagocyte numbers, CSF modulate cell-surface receptor expression, chemotaxis, secretory activity, and the killing mechanisms of phagocytes. Thus, the CSF are important regulatory glycoproteins that enhance both the production and function of phagocytes.

Overview of Hemopoiesis

Self-renewing stem cells in the bone marrow generate the full range of mature hemopoietic cells. The CSF, acting within the bone marrow microenvironment, stimulate the differentiation of stem cells to committed progenitor cells, which further differentiate to mature phagocytes (Fig. 1). Hemopoietic stem cells are defined by an *in vivo* assay in which normal syngeneic bone marrow cells are injected into lethally irradiated mice (1–4). The colonies that develop within the spleen after 12 to 14 days contain the most primitive cells, called splenic colony-forming units (CFU-S). Although not usually proliferating, CFU-S are capable of self-renewal. Of the CSF identified, IL-3 acts on the least-differentiated cells and may be an important signal for CFU-S (5, 6). As maturation proceeds, CFU-S evolve into an additional type of progenitor cell called granulocyte-erythrocyte-monocyte-megakaryocyte colony-forming units (CFU-GEMM) and the capacity for self-renewal decreases. CFU-GEMM respond to both IL-3 and GM-CSF and evolve into committed phagocyte progenitor cells: (i) macrophage colony-forming units; (ii) granulocyte colony-forming units; and (iii) eosinophil colony-forming units. The differentiation of macrophage CFU to mature macrophages is influenced by IL-3, GM-CSF, and M-CSF. The differentiation of granulocyte CFU to mature granulocytes is influenced by IL-3, GM-CSF, and G-CSF. IL-3, GM-CSF, and IL-

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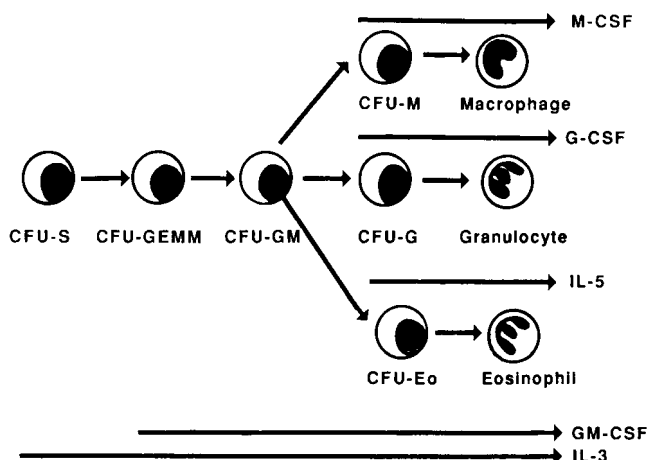


Figure 1. Hemopoiesis as a function of CSF activity.

5 promote the differentiation of eosinophil CFU to eosinophils.

The hemopoietic system is under complex control and responds to a variety of positive and negative factors (2, 7–9). The production of phagocytes may be increased up to 1000-fold by positive feedback signals. The CSF themselves act synergistically to promote the proliferation of progenitor cells (7). When used in combination, the concentrations of CSF required to stimulate cell cycling can be reduced by a factor of 10–400. In addition to the CSF, IL-1, IL-4, IL-5, and IL-6 are potent positive regulators of hemopoiesis. The interleukins may exert a direct effect on the production of phagocytes from precursor cells, or an indirect effect mediated by their actions on accessory cells (2). Bacterial endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide [LPS]) also enhances hemopoiesis (8). Experimental animals injected with LPS exhibit a transitory rise in serum CSF levels reaching 50–100 times baseline values. In addition, the numbers of progenitor cells in the bone marrow and spleen increase after LPS injection. Other microbial products, including extracts of *Listeria monocytogenes*, bacillus Calmette-Guérin, *Corynebacterium parvum*, and *Lactobacillus casei*, increase the serum CSF levels, as well as the number of progenitor cells (8, 10, 11).

As infectious organisms are effectively eliminated by host defense mechanisms, the requirement for white blood cells is diminished. A reduction in CSF activity alone may not be sufficient to decrease phagocyte production, however. A series of negative feedback mechanisms are available to facilitate the return of hemopoietic cell production to steady state levels. Prostaglandins inhibit colony formation by a variety of progenitor cells (2, 8). At physiological concentrations of prostaglandins, however, the production of macrophage CFU is suppressed primarily. Iron-binding proteins such as acid ferritins, lactoferrin, and transferrin decrease CSF production or the cycling of progenitor cells (2, 8). α , β , and γ -interferons (IFN), and α - and β -tumor necrosis

factors (TNF), also interfere with colony formation (2, 8). These regulatory mechanisms enable the precise control of white blood cell production.

The Biological Properties of Colony-Stimulating Factors

The four classic CSF are glycoproteins composed of polypeptide chains of approximately equal length. IL-3, G-CSF, and GM-CSF are single chains; M-CSF is a dimer consisting of two identical chains (Table I). The carbohydrate components of the molecules are extremely variable, accounting for the differences in molecular weights reported in the literature.

A variety of cells, including T lymphocytes, endothelial cells, macrophages, and fibroblasts, produce CSF. In general, those cells that produce CSF are capable of producing more than one type and are widely distributed among tissues. The basal levels of CSF production are usually low. Increased levels in the blood and tissues occur rapidly in response to factors such as infection and antigenic stimulation. Besides stimulating the proliferation of hemopoietic cells, the CSF in general: (i) promote continued cell viability; (ii) stimulate the irreversible commitment of cells to differentiation; and (iii) promote cell function or biological activity. Analysis of the biological activity of any one CSF is greatly complicated by the capacity of that factor to provoke the synthesis of other cytokines, including other CSF. In addition to their effects on hemopoietic cells, the CSF stimulate the growth and biological activity of a number of other cell types, e.g., normal marrow fibroblasts and endothelial cells (12, 13). The importance of these effects on nonhemopoietic cells *in vivo* remains to be determined.

The response of a cell to a particular CSF is governed by the expression of a unique, noncross-reacting cell surface receptor. The receptors for all four CSF are glycoproteins composed of single polypeptide chains (14). Following CSF binding, the receptors are internalized and degraded. The molecular events that occur subsequent to CSF-receptor interaction and that culminate in cellular activation are not well understood (15). However, these events include the phosphorylation of specific cellular proteins and the enhanced expression of specific cellular genes, e.g., proto-oncogenes (16). Cells can express receptors for more than one CSF, allowing the interaction of CSF at the cell surface. Thus, the occupation of one type of receptor may modulate (usually down-regulate) CSF binding to a receptor of a different type (14).

IL-3. IL-3, or multi-CSF, is an interleukocyte factor produced exclusively by activated T4 helper lymphocytes (17). IL-3 is the least-restricted CSF in terms of the cell lineages that it affects. In addition to stimulating the formation of granulocyte and macrophage colonies, IL-3 stimulates the proliferation of erythroid, mega

Table I. Hemopoietic Colony-Stimulating Factors

Factor	Mol wt	Cell source	Cells produced
IL-3 (multi-CSF)	15,000–30,000	T lymphocyte	Erythrocyte, granulocyte, macrophage, megakaryocyte
GM-CSF	18,000–30,000	T lymphocyte, fibroblast, endothelial, epithelial, macrophage	Granulocyte, macrophage, megakaryocyte
G-CSF	20,000	Endothelial, macrophage, fibroblast	Granulocyte
M-CSF (CSF-1)	70,000–90,000 (dimer)	Macrophage, fibroblast, endothelial	Macrophage

karyocytic, mast, and pluripotent stem cells (6, 9). Although its precise role remains to be elucidated, its major function may involve regulating the proliferation and differentiation of bone marrow stem cells. The effects of IL-3 on the survival and differentiation of early progenitor cells are enhanced by other cytokines such as interleukin 1 and interleukin 6 (18). Recent studies showed that while IL-3 alone does not stimulate the proliferation of mature macrophages, IL-3 does enhance the proliferative response of macrophages to M-CSF (19).

IL-3 exerts a variety of effects on cells in addition to stimulating their proliferation. IL-3-treated monocytes, for example, exhibit elevated antimicrobial activity. Recombinant human IL-3 is as effective as GM-CSF in inducing the killing of *Candida albicans* by human monocytes *in vitro* (20). Moreover, IL-3-treated monocytes maintain their anticandidal activity for a longer period of time than do monocytes stimulated with IFN- γ . In addition, IL-3 in conjunction with bacterial endotoxin stimulates the tumoricidal activity of monocytes (21). This activity is diminished in culture by the addition of antibody specific for TNF- α , implicating TNF in the elevated tumoricidal activity observed.

GM-CSF. GM-CSF is undetectable in normal sera by current methods of analysis (22). In the bone marrow, it appears to be synthesized locally and sequestered in the extracellular matrix (23, 24). GM-CSF is synthesized and secreted by a number of cell types, i.e., T lymphocytes, macrophages, fibroblasts, and endothelial cells. GM-CSF production by T cells is induced by IL-1 (25) and antigen- or mitogen-stimulation (26, 27). Expression of the GM-CSF gene in macrophages and fibroblasts is initiated by phagocytosis, contact with microbial products, or treatment with either IL-1 or TNF (28–31). Similarly, IL-1 and TNF stimulate GM-

CSF production by fibroblasts and endothelial cells (32–37).

GM-CSF affects cells predominantly, but not exclusively, of the myeloid lineage (12, 13). GM-CSF has a broad range of activities in addition to stimulating the growth of granulocyte and macrophage colonies *in vitro*. GM-CSF supports the proliferation of progenitors, including multipotent blast cells, that give rise to mixed colonies which contain all the myeloid elements (38–40). GM-CSF is chemotactic for mononuclear phagocytes (41) and is a potent activator of mononuclear phagocyte function. Monocytes treated with GM-CSF exhibit an increase in IL-1 production and the enhanced expression of cell-surface Ia antigens (42, 43). Both activities may serve to up-regulate the antigen-presenting capacity of macrophages and, thus, the capacity of cells to initiate an immune response. Indeed, prior treatment of splenic macrophages with GM-CSF increases the primary immune response to sheep red blood cells (sRBC) measured in terms of the number of anti-sRBC plaque-forming cells (42).

GM-CSF stimulates the tumoricidal activity of human peripheral blood monocytes. Human peripheral blood monocytes treated with human recombinant GM-CSF exhibit an elevated capacity to kill human malignant melanoma cells (A375) *in vitro* (44, 45). In contrast, the enhanced tumoricidal activity exhibited by monocytes in response to IFN- γ is observed only when a second signal, such as LPS, is provided. It has been suggested that activity exhibited by GM-CSF-treated monocytes may be related to the enhanced secretion of TNF- α (21, 46).

The antimicrobial activity of mononuclear phagocytes is also stimulated by GM-CSF. GM-CSF acts in synergy with IFN- γ to promote the resistance of macrophages to infection by *Leishmania major* (47). Moreover, GM-CSF-activated macrophages exhibit an elevated capacity to kill *Leishmania donovani* (48). Sub-

optimal concentrations of GM-CSF and IFN- γ are synergistic in their anti-leishmanial activity. Similarly, GM-CSF-treated macrophages inhibit the replication of *Leishmania tropica* (49) and *Trypanosoma cruzi* (50). GM-CSF stimulates the secretion of hydrogen peroxide by macrophages incubated with either phorbol esters or zymosan, providing a possible mechanism for the enhanced killing of some organisms (50, 51). GM-CSF also prevents the infection of the monocytic cell line U937 by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (52). A maximal effect is observed when the cells are pretreated and GM-CSF is provided continuously throughout the culture period. HIV replication resumes when GM-CSF is removed from the culture system. Additional studies have shown a synergistic effect of GM-CSF and 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine (AZT) on the anti-HIV activity of macrophage cells (53, 54). Moreover, the toxic effect of AZT on human myeloid progenitor cells is ameliorated by the addition of GM-CSF (55).

In contrast to the aforementioned studies, other investigators report that GM-CSF does not induce the anti-*Toxoplasma* activity of murine tissue-derived macrophage cells, despite an increase in H₂O₂ secretion (51). In separate studies, GM-CSF did not induce H₂O₂ production by human macrophage populations or stimulate their antimicrobial activity toward either *Toxoplasma* or *Legionella pneumophila* (56, 57). Contrary to its effect on the replication of HIV in the U937 cell line noted above, GM-CSF promotes the replication of HIV in human monocytes (54).

In addition to its effects on mononuclear phagocytes, GM-CSF is a potent stimulator of eosinophil and neutrophil function. GM-CSF is chemotactic for both granulocytes and eosinophils (41, 58). Neutrophils treated with physiologic concentrations of GM-CSF express a 3-fold increase in the number of cell-surface receptors for the chemoattractant f-Met-Leu-Phe (59). In addition, 30 min of incubation with GM-CSF reversibly inhibits the migration of neutrophils (60). Thus, GM-CSF may serve to attract and to immobilize neutrophils in areas of inflammation. Both neutrophils and eosinophils exhibit enhanced antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) following GM-CSF treatment (38, 61–64). It is relevant to note that treatment with GM-CSF increases the number of Fc receptors on U937 and HL-60 cells (65, 66). Furthermore, GM-CSF stimulates the oxygen burst of neutrophils (67), a factor that could augment their killing capacity. Finally, GM-CSF-treated granulocytes are characterized by elevated production of IL-1 (68).

The antimicrobial activity of granulocytes is also increased following treatment with GM-CSF. GM-CSF stimulates oxidative metabolism (67), the phagocytosis of bacteria (69), and the uptake and killing of *T. cruzi* by human neutrophils (70). The killing of *Shistosoma*

mansoni larvae by eosinophils is also stimulated by GM-CSF (71).

G-CSF. G-CSF is undetectable in the serum of most healthy human subjects, but high levels are detected in patients with a variety of blood disorders (72). The expression of G-CSF transcripts and the production of G-CSF by human monocytes, fibroblasts, and endothelial cells *in vitro* are stimulated by LPS, IL-1, and/or TNF (29, 36, 37, 73–75).

G-CSF stimulates the proliferation and differentiation of committed granulocyte precursor cells (76). Colonies of other cell types that occur when bone marrow cultures are treated with G-CSF are thought to arise as an indirect effect of accessory cells and other cytokines also present (2). G-CSF is a potent differentiating factor for some, but not all, myeloid leukemia cells (77, 78). In addition to supporting granulocyte formation, G-CSF exerts a profound influence on the biological activity of mature cells. G-CSF is a chemotactic factor for granulocytes (79). Furthermore, neutrophils treated with recombinant G-CSF exhibit: increased phagocytic activity (80); elevated superoxide anion production in response to f-Met-Leu-Phe (81); and enhanced ADCC for tumor cells (62). These biological activities are consistent with the hypothesis that the primary functions of G-CSF are to stimulate the growth and differentiation of neutrophil progenitor cells and to prime the response of mature cells to subsequent stimuli. Although granulocytes are the primary target cells of G-CSF activity, recombinant G-CSF induces both the migration and the proliferation of human endothelial cells in culture (12). These findings suggest that G-CSF may serve as a regulatory molecule outside of the hemopoietic system.

M-CSF. M-CSF is produced by macrophages, endothelial cells, and fibroblasts and is found in low concentrations in many tissues (36, 82, 83). IL-3, GM-CSF, and IFN- γ stimulate M-CSF production by macrophages (29, 75). Murine M-CSF added to murine bone marrow progenitor cells is a potent stimulator of macrophage colony formation *in vitro*. Initial studies reported a greater effect of human M-CSF on the formation of murine macrophage colonies than on human macrophage colonies (84–86). Improved culture conditions have resulted in the enhanced stimulation of human macrophage progenitor cells and the elevated production of macrophage colonies in response to human M-CSF treatment (87, 88).

M-CSF exerts a wide range of effects on macrophages in addition to promoting cell proliferation and viability. One of the most striking effects is the change in cell morphology induced by M-CSF. M-CSF-treated cells exhibit increased cell size, membrane ruffling, and cytoplasmic vacuolization (89). M-CSF is chemotactic for macrophages (90) and has been shown to enhance their tumoricidal activity in several studies. M-CSF-

treated murine macrophages were found to be tumoricidal in an early report (91). In more recent studies, M-CSF-treated murine macrophages exhibited enhanced tumor cytotoxicity and ADCC (92, 93). In the latter case, the greatest effect was observed when M-CSF and lymphocyte supernatants were used as costimulants. An increase in TNF secretion by macrophages following treatment with M-CSF may contribute to the increase in tumor cytotoxicity observed (94). Likewise, an increase in Fc receptor expression could augment ADCC by treated macrophages (95). Human recombinant M-CSF is also a potent stimulator of human macrophage cytotoxicity (96).

In contrast to its effects on the tumoricidal activity of macrophage cells, M-CSF-treated macrophages suppress IL-2 secretion and the proliferation of antigen- or mitogen-stimulated T lymphocytes (97). The failure of either catalase or indomethacin to inhibit this suppressive effect indicates that the effect is not due to the production of either prostaglandins or toxic oxygen radicals. M-CSF-treated macrophages fail to express cell-surface Ia antigens, maximally suggesting that treated macrophages may no longer present antigens to T lymphocytes effectively (96).

The antimicrobial activity of macrophages is increased after M-CSF stimulation. Resident peritoneal macrophages exhibit increased phagocytosis and overall killing of *L. monocytogenes* following treatment with M-CSF (98). M-CSF also stimulates the killing of *C. albicans* by both human monocytes (20) and elicited murine macrophages (99). Cells treated with M-CSF exhibit increased hydrogen peroxide and superoxide anion production, an elevated number of mannose receptors, and the enhanced uptake of yeast, suggesting several possible mechanisms by which the killing of *C. albicans* is increased (99, 100). In contrast to these studies, M-CSF-treated human macrophages are not stimulated to secrete H_2O_2 or to kill *Toxoplasma gondii* (56).

M-CSF also induces the resistance of murine macrophages to vesicular stomatitis virus infection (101). The resistance of M-CSF-treated cells is inhibited by antibody to IFN- α/β indicating the participation of IFN- α/β in the observed effect. In contrast, monocyte-derived macrophages may become permissive for the growth of HIV virus following M-CSF treatment (102).

Interleukins. In addition to the four classic CSF, there are a number of other soluble factors that influence colony formation either directly or indirectly. Among these factors are the interleukins, described originally for their effects on other biological systems.

IL-1. Interleukin 1, which is identical to hemopoietin 1, acts on a variety of cell types (103, 104). It has no proliferative effect on hemopoietic cells when acting alone. However, IL-1 has been shown to modulate the response of cells to CSF, possibly by enhancing the

expression of cell surface receptors for these factors. Thus, IL-1 enhances the differentiation and survival of early progenitor cells that occur in response to IL-3. In addition, IL-1 stimulates the production of G-CSF and/or GM-CSF by T lymphocytes, macrophages, endothelial cells, and fibroblasts *in vitro* (25, 34–37).

IL-4. Like IL-1, interleukin 4 alone has no proliferative effect on normal hemopoietic progenitor cells. It does stimulate the formation of colonies in response to G-CSF and GM-CSF, while inhibiting their formation in response to IL-3 (12).

IL-5. Interleukin 5 selectively stimulates the proliferation of eosinophil precursors and the biological activity of mature eosinophils (63, 105). Activated T lymphocytes are the only known source of interleukin 5. This may account for the fact that the normal response of eosinophils to worm infestation is dependent upon the biological activity of T lymphocytes.

IL-6. Interleukin 6 exerts effects on a variety of cell types (106). It has no proliferative effect on human hemopoietic cells when acting alone (107). It does serve as a weak stimulus for the formation of granulocyte and macrophage colonies when added to cultures of murine bone marrow cells, however. In addition, IL-6 accelerates the formation of multilineage, granulocyte, and macrophage colonies induced by IL-3 (18).

CSF Production during Infection

Considering that an increase in white blood cell count is a hallmark of infection, changes in both the frequency of progenitor cells and the levels of CSF in the serum might be expected. Indeed, studies involving a number of infectious agents, i.e., *Salmonella typhimurium* (108), *Mycobacterium lepraemurium* (109), *Brucella abortus* (110), *S. mansoni* (111), and *S. japonicum* (112, 113), have reported elevated levels of CSF in the sera and increased numbers of progenitor cells within the bone marrow and spleen. Nonviable bacteria and bacterial products also modulate both the CSF levels and the progenitor cell number. Serum CSF levels and the number of progenitors are increased in mice following intraperitoneal injection of *Nocardia rubra* cell wall skeleton (114). Similarly, subcutaneous injection of heat-killed *Lac. casei* induces peak serum CSF activity 18 hr after injection (10). In the latter case, the number of progenitor cells in the bone marrow is elevated on Day 3, but is below normal on Day 10 after inoculation. Conversely, the number of progenitor cells in the spleen is elevated 3–10 days following inoculation. Mice injected with synthetic muramyl peptides also exhibit elevated serum CSF levels (11). Some of the same synthetic derivatives protect mice from infection by *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. All of the derivatives that are protective stimulate CSF production; not all of the derivatives capable of inducing CSF synthesis are protective, however.

Listeriosis in mice is an animal model used extensively to examine the role of cell-mediated immunity in host defenses to intracellular pathogens. Its study has provided insight into the changes in CSF and progenitor cells that occur during infection. Increased serum CSF levels are evident within 20 hr after infection with *L. monocytogenes* (115–116). These levels remain elevated for 7–10 days, gradually returning to normal as the infection is resolved. The number of progenitor cells in the bone marrow decreases during infection, attaining a minimum at 4–7 days after infection (106). The number of progenitors in the spleen, on the other hand, increases, reaching a maximum after 4–7 days (115). Analyses of sera indicate that the primary CSF produced during infection are M-CSF and G-CSF (115–117). Analyses of tissue homogenates indicate that the livers and spleens of infected animals contain the most M-CSF activity (118). Splenectomy prior to infection abrogates the increases in serum CSF levels observed (119).

Immune mice challenged with *Listeria* exhibit different kinetics of CSF production (120). The level of M-CSF in the sera of immune animals peaks at 12 hr after infection and nearly returns to a normal level by 48 hr. In contrast to nonimmune animals, the number of progenitor cells in the bone marrow of immune animals increases following infection. Furthermore, the number of progenitors in the spleens of immune mice increases only 2-fold in response to challenge, whereas the number in the spleens of nonimmune mice increases 6-fold (121). Nonimmune mice administered *Listeria*-immune, but not nonimmune, splenocytes produce CSF rapidly in response to *Listeria* challenge (121). The rapid production of CSF observed in adoptively immunized mice following infection is mediated by T lymphocytes; treatment of immune splenocytes with anti-Thy 1.2 and complement prior to transfer abrogates the phenomenon.

The production of CSF by spleen cells *in vitro* has been evaluated. Immune splenocytes incubated with heat-killed *Listeria* produce five times more CSF activity than do nonimmune splenocytes (122). Moreover, the supernatants obtained from cultures of immune and nonimmune splenocytes contain different CSF activities. The culture supernatants derived from immune cell populations induce granulocyte colonies, primarily; the supernatants from nonimmune cells give preferential rise to macrophage colonies.

CD4⁺, *Listeria*-specific, T cell clones incubated with heat-killed antigen produce both IL-3 and GM-CSF (26, 123). Passive transfer of either the clones or their supernatants to nonimmune mice confers resistance to a lethal challenge with *Listeria*. Removal of GM-CSF from the supernatants reduces the level of protection conferred. Thus, GM-CSF synthesized and

secreted by CD4⁺ T lymphocytes during infection may play an important role in host defenses.

While T lymphocytes are a critical factor in the elevated production of CSF during secondary immunological responses, other cell types may play an important role in the production of CSF during the early stages of a primary response. It has been reported, for example, that heat-killed *Lac. casei* injected into non-immune mice stimulates CSF production by macrophages (124). Consequently, there appears to be a number of mechanisms by which the production of CSF might be increased. T cell-independent mechanisms may be important during the initial stages of infection; T cell-dependent mechanisms may enhance CSF secretion and modulate the types of CSF secreted during the later stages.

Immunotherapy with the CSF

A potentially important role exists for hemopoietic growth factors in the restorative therapy of immunosuppressed patients, including cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, bone marrow transplant patients, and patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, severe burns, or overwhelming infections (22). Isolation of the cDNA that encode the CSF has enabled investigators to synthesize the recombinant proteins in quantities sufficient to test their therapeutic potential. Clinical trials involving recombinant GM-CSF and G-CSF have been reported; recombinant M-CSF and IL-3 are currently being evaluated. The early results indicate that the effects of CSF *in vivo* are similar to the effects observed *in vitro*.

The number of white blood cells in the peripheral circulation increases dramatically following the administration of CSF. Neutrophils, monocytes, and eosinophils are elevated in mice given recombinant murine IL-3 (125). Similarly, nonhuman primates injected with human G-CSF or GM-CSF exhibit dose-dependent increases in the same cell populations (126, 127). Tests in humans confirm the effects of CSF on the peripheral white blood cell count. Increases in the numbers of circulating monocytes and neutrophils are observed in cancer patients or patients with bone marrow failure undergoing treatment with GM-CSF (128–130).

In addition to increasing the number of peripheral white blood cells, CSF can reduce the toxic effects of chemotherapy and irradiation on the bone marrow. The administration of GM-CSF promotes the recovery of neutrophils, eosinophils, and monocytes in cyclophosphamide-treated mice that normally exhibit myelosuppression (131). Similarly, human G-CSF increases the recovery of white blood cells in Syrian hamsters following cyclophosphamide treatment (132). Recombinant murine GM-CSF and G-CSF partially protect mice from the lethal effects of irradiation (133). GM-CSF and G-CSF given to human cancer patients reverse

the neutropenia induced by chemotherapy (134). GM-CSF treatment also increases the number of neutrophils, eosinophils, and monocytes found in the blood of patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (135). Finally, human M-CSF increases the neutrophil counts in children with chronic neutropenia (136) and in patients undergoing cytotoxic therapy (137) presumably by stimulating the production of other colony-stimulating factors by monocytes.

Mature phagocytes are activated *in vivo* by the administration of CSF. The primary immune response to sRBC is enhanced in mice treated with murine GM-CSF. Mice injected with GM-CSF exhibit a 2- to 3-fold increase in the production of antibody to a low dose of sRBC (42). The macrophages obtained from GM-CSF-treated mice exhibit increases in Ia density, Fc receptor expression, and IL-1 secretion, and inhibit the growth of *T. cruzi in vitro* (138, 139). Furthermore, the clearance of *S. typhimurium* is increased in mice following the administration of GM-CSF (138). G-CSF increases the resistance to infection by *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Serratia marcescens*, or *C. albicans* in animals rendered neutropenic by thermal injury or cyclophosphamide treatment (132, 140, 141). Additionally, recombinant murine GM-CSF given to mice provides protection against listerial infections (26). Several studies indicate that human phagocytes are also activated by CSF *in vivo*. Monocytes obtained from patients following treatment with GM-CSF secrete more interferon and TNF- α , and exhibit a greater capacity for ADCC, than do monocytes obtained prior to treatment (128). Superoxide anion production in response to f-Met-Leu-Phe or phorbol myristate acetate is elevated in the neutrophils derived from cancer patients following the administration of GM-CSF (142, 143). Similarly, an increase is observed in the production of superoxide anions and the binding of f-Met-Leu-Phe by granulocytes obtained from hamsters administered G-CSF (132).

Although early clinical trials involving the CSF have been encouraging, several experiments indicate that in certain situations the CSF may have no effect on host defenses or, in fact, may be detrimental. It has been shown, for example, that treatment of mice with antibodies to GM-CSF and IL-3 dramatically decreases the incidence of neurological symptoms in cases of cerebral malaria (144). In a study of murine leishmaniasis, treatment of mice with GM-CSF actually led to an increase in the parasite burden (145). There is experimental evidence to suggest that the CSF may increase the replication of human immunodeficiency virus in monocytes (54, 98). It is apparent, therefore, that the use of CSF in the treatment of some infections could result in a susceptible population of phagocytes in which intracellular parasites proliferate more readily (146).

It is also conceivable that the administration of CSF clinically could exert adverse effects on the hemopoietic system. For example, CSF could provide a proliferative signal to cells in preleukemic patients and, thus, promote the onset of leukemia. Indeed, some malignant cells express CSF receptors (22). There is also experimental evidence to indicate that multiple injections of CSF may elicit antibody production (129) or a state of tolerance in which further administration of these cytokines is no longer effective (147). Fortunately, early clinical trials suggest that the CSF are relatively safe and have few side effects (22). In these trials, bone pain was the major complaint associated with the CSF used in immunotherapy; G-CSF seemed to be less toxic than GM-CSF.

Summary and Future Prospects

The role of CSF in the production of activated phagocytes during infection is summarized in Figure 2. Resident macrophages and immigrating granulocytes serve in the first line of host defenses against microbial invasion. The phagocytes kill some of the invading microorganisms and the macrophages process and present microbial antigens to antigen-specific T lymphocytes. IL-1 secreted by a number of cell types, including macrophages, promotes clonal expansion and the activation of sensitized T lymphocytes, which in turn produce a variety of cytokines, including CSF. These cytokines, in combination with the microbial products released during infection, stimulate the proliferation and differentiation of bone marrow progenitor cells and the increased formation of circulating white blood cells. In response to chemotactic factors, the phagocytes in the circulation adhere to endothelial cells adjacent to the inflammatory site, undergo diapedesis, and migrate to the site of infection. These phagocytes, activated by CSF and other cytokines, exhibit increased antimicro-

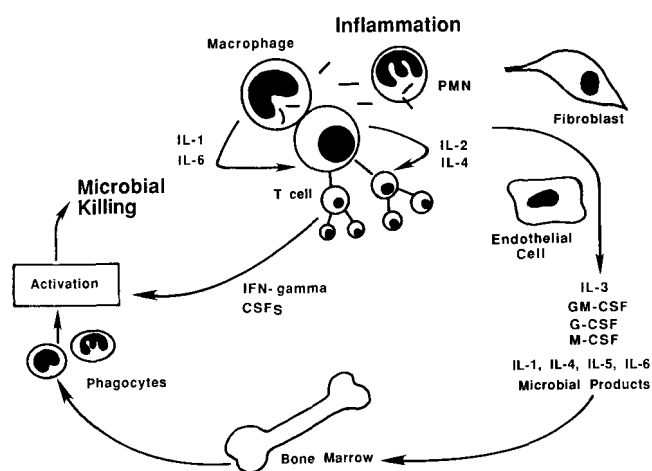


Figure 2. The role of CSF in the production of activated phagocytes during microbial infection.

bial activity. Thus, the CSF play a central role in phagocyte production, differentiation, and activation.

The genes encoding the CSF in humans and in mice have been cloned and expressed as recombinant material. The recombinant CSF exhibit essentially the same biological activity as do the native proteins. Moreover, many of the activities expressed *in vitro* have also been observed *in vivo*. The results of animal experiments and clinical trials confirm the role of CSF in phagocyte production and the augmentation of host defenses. While cytokines are currently being evaluated on an individual basis, therapies in the future may involve a combination of cytokines used in an effort to control host defenses precisely and to provide more effective treatment. It has been shown, for example, that murine IL-3 and M-CSF induce the cycling of progenitor cells when used together at doses that are individually ineffective (148). Additionally, a combination of either GM-CSF or G-CSF and IL-1 greatly increases the rate of survival from lethal irradiation (149). Furthermore, more effective treatments may utilize a combination of cytokines and conventional drugs. In one experiment, for example, gentamicin enhanced the anti-pseudomonal activity induced by G-CSF (150). In another experiment, tumor necrosis factor acted synergistically with amikacin and macrolides to inhibit the growth of *Mycobacterium avium* complex *in vitro* (151). Lastly, GM-CSF increased the antiviral activity of AZT against HIV (53, 55).

Clearly, the CSF represent an exciting field of medical biology, in which advances in the basic sciences are being applied rapidly in the clinic. Thus, a variety of patients, including those suffering from hemopoietic dysfunctions, malignancies, or overwhelming infections, may benefit from the therapeutic use of CSF and other cytokines in the near future.

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