

A set point in the selection of the $\alpha\beta$ TCR T cell repertoire imposed by pre-TCR signaling strength

E. Rodriguez Bovolenta; E. M. García Cuesta; L. Horndler; J. Ponomarenko; W.W. Schamel; J.M. Mellado Garcia; M. Castro Ponce; D. Abia Holgado; H.M. Van Santen

Abstract-

Signaling via the T cell receptor (TCR) is critical during the development, maintenance, and activation of T cells. Quantitative aspects of TCR signaling have an important role during positive and negative selection, lineage choice, and ability to respond to small amounts of antigen. By using a mutant mouse line expressing a hypomorphic allele of the CD3 ζ chain, we show here that the strength of pre-TCR-mediated signaling during T cell development determines the diversity of the TCR β repertoire available for positive and negative selection, and hence of the final $\alpha\beta$ TCR repertoire. This finding uncovers an unexpected, pre-TCR signaling-dependent and repertoire-shaping role for β -selection beyond selection of in-frame rearranged TCR β chains. Our data furthermore support a model of pre-TCR signaling in which the arrangement of this receptor in stable nanoclusters determines its quantitative signaling capacity.

Index Terms-

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