Epiligrin, A Component of Epithelial Basement Membranes, Is An Adhesive Ligand for α3β1 Positive T Lymphocytes

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Abstract. The cutaneous T cell lymphomas (CTCL), typified by mycosis fungoides, and several chronic T cell mediated dermatoses are characterized by the migration of T lymphocytes into the epidermis (epidermotropism). Alternatively, other types of cutaneous inflammation (malignant cutaneous B cell lymphoma, CBCL, or lymphocytoma cutis, non-malignant T or B cell type) do not show evidence of epidermotropism. This suggests that certain T lymphocyte subpopulations are able to interact with and penetrate the epidermal basement membrane. We show here that T lymphocytes derived from patients with CTCL (HUT 78 or HUT 102 cells), adhere to the detergent-insoluble extracellular matrix prepared from cultured basal keratinocytes (HFK ECM). HUT cell adhesion to HFK ECM was inhibitable with monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) directed to the α3 (P1B5) or β1 (P4C10) integrin receptors, and could be up-regulated by an activating anti-β1 mAb (P4G11). An inhibitory mAb, P3H9-2, raised against keratinocytes identified epiligrin as the ligand for α3β1 positive T cells in HFK ECM. Interestingly, two lymphocyte populations could be clearly distinguished relative to expression of α3β1 by flow cytometry analysis. Lymphokine activated killer cells, alloreactive cytotoxic T cells and T cells derived from patients with CTCL expressed high levels of α3β1 (α3β1high). Non-adherent peripheral blood mononuclear cells, acute T or B lymphocytic leukemias, or non-cutaneous T or B lymphocyte cell lines expressed low levels of α3β1 (α3β1low). Resting PBL or α3β1low T or B cell lines did not adhere to HFK ECM or purified epiligrin. However, adhesion to epiligrin could be up-regulated by mAbs which activate the β1 subunit indicating that α3β1 activity is a function of expression and affinity. In skin derived from patients with graft-vs.-host (GVH) disease, experimentally induced delayed hypersensitivity reactions, and CTCL, the infiltrating T cells could be stained with mAbs to α3 or β1 and were localized in close proximity to the epiligrin-containing basement membrane. Infiltrating lymphocytes in malignant cutaneous B disease (CBCL) did not express α3β1 by immunohistochemical techniques and did not associate with the epidermal basement membrane. The present findings clearly define a function for α3β1 in T cells and strongly suggest that α3β1 interaction with epiligrin may be involved in the pathogenesis of cutaneous inflammation.

LYMPHOCYTE-mediated cutaneous dermatoses can be broadly categorized (Kurtin et al., 1986; Knobler and Edelson, 1986) into those which involve the superficial dermis and epidermis (T cell type) or those that involve the deep or reticular dermis (B cell type). The so-called T cell pattern is histologically characterized by a lichenoid infiltrate whereby the T cells are concentrated in a bandlike pattern in the papillary dermis and epidermis often obscuring the basement membrane zone (Knobler and Edelson, 1986; Kurtin et al., 1986; Murphy and Mihm, 1986). Lichen planus, graft vs.-host disease and the group of cutaneous T cell lymphomas (CTCL) typified by mycosis fungoides are examples of cutaneous T cell disorders which have a classic T cell pattern of infiltration. In addition, in CTCL significant epidermotropism (migration into the epidermis) occurs and Pautrier microabscesses containing T cells are often observed in the epidermis (Knobler and Edelson, 1986). Migration of T cells into the epidermis is also characteristic of other dermatoses such as contact dermatitis. In contrast, cutaneous B cell lymphomas (CBCL) and the group of non-malignant disorders referred to as pseudolymphoma or lymphocytoma cutis are not characterized by the migration of cells into the epidermis (Kurtin et al., 1986). Rather, these disorders show

1. Abbreviations used in this paper: AAT, adenine/aminopterin/thymidine; ALL, acute lymphocytic leukemias; BMZ, basement membrane zone; CBCL, cutaneous B cell lymphoma; CTCL, cutaneous T cell lymphoma; CTL, cytotoxic T lymphocyte; ECM, extracellular matrix; EPI, epidermis; HFF, human foreskin fibroblast; HFK, human foreskin keratinocyte; ICAM, intercellular adhesion molecule; KGM, keratinocyte growth medium; LECCAM, lectin-like cell adhesion molecule; MF, mycosis fungoides; PBL, peripheral blood lymphocyte; VCAM, vascular cell adhesion molecule.
perivascular and interstitial cellular aggregates within the reticular dermis often with relative sparing of the papillary dermis or the subepidermal collagenous (grenz) zone (B cell type). The mechanisms operating to determine the specificity of T or B cell localization in the skin are presently unknown.

Integrins are a family of heterodimers that are involved in a variety of cell–cell and cell–matrix interactions (Hynes, 1992). In hematopoietic cells the β1 (VLAs) and β2 (LFA, Mac-1, p150/95) integrins are widely expressed and mediate the adhesion of such cells to extracellular matrix proteins (ECM) (collagens, fibronectins, laminins) and the vascular cell adhesion molecules (ICAMs) 1-3, VCAM) (reviewed by Hemler, 1990; Osborn, 1991; Lasky, 1992; Hynes, 1992). In the skin, integrins, and their ligands/co-receptors have been implicated in keratinocyte desmosome and hemidesmosome function (Carter et al., 1990a, b; Larjava et al., 1990; Symington et al., 1993), vascular emigration of neutrophils (β2/ICAM) and T lymphocytes (α4β1/VCAM) (Wysocki and Issekutz, 1991; reviewed by Lasky, 1992), and the α1 (ICAM) pathway has been implicated in the retention of T lymphocytes in inflammatory epidermis (reviewed by Walsh et al., 1990; Barker, 1991; Barker and Nickoloff, 1992). However, the migration of T cells into the epidermis necessarily requires such cells to penetrate the epidermal basement membrane. ICAM or VCAM interactions cannot account for this since these integrin co-receptors are not known to be constituents of the epidermal basement membrane. Recently, the α3β1 integrin has been reported to be the receptor used by keratinocytes to adhere to epiligrin, a newly described component of epithelial basement membranes (Carter et al., 1991). However, the mechanisms T cells used to adhere to and subsequently penetrate the epidermal basement membrane are completely unknown.

The epidermal basement membrane is synthesized by basal keratinocytes and many of its components can be detected in the detergent insoluble matrix deposited by such cells in culture. Therefore, in the present paper, we examined the ability of various T (or B) cell populations to adhere to the ECM synthesized by cultured human foreskin keratinocytes (HFK). The results of these studies show clearly that cultured cells from patients with CTCL exhibited a clear preference for matrix derived from keratinocytes. Inhibition studies with mAbs directed to integrin receptors and keratinocyte matrix molecules revealed that CTCL adhesion to HFK ECM was a function of α3β1 interaction with epiligrin. Immunoperoxidase staining analysis of cutaneous T cell lymphoma and other inflammatory dermatoses revealed that the infiltrating T cells expressed α3β1 and could be detected in the basement membrane zone in close association with epiligrin. In contrast, infiltrating cells in CBCL did not stain with mAbs to α3 and did not associate with the basement membrane or epidermis. The present findings clearly define a function for α3β1 in T cells and suggest a mechanism for T lymphocyte migration into the epidermis that may involve α3β1 interaction with adhesion molecules such as epiligrin in the epidermal basement membrane.

**Methods and Materials**

**Materials**

Protein-A and -G agarose, PMSF, N-ethylmaleimide (NEM) and BSA were from Sigma Immunochemicals (St. Louis, MO). Peroxidase- and fluoroscein-conjugated (goat) anti-mouse IgG (H and L chains) or peroxidase- and rhodamine-conjugated (goat) anti-rabbit IgG and IgM (H and L) were obtained from Vector Laboratories (Vector-Stain Elite Kit; Burlingame, CA) and Tago, Inc. (Burlingame, CA). 45Caesium chromate was from New England Nuclear (Boston, MA) and [35S]methionine and cysteine were from Amersham Corp. (Arlington Heights, IL). Phycoerythrin-conjugated avidin was from Cal-Tag (San Francisco, CA). N-hydroxysuccinimide-biotin was from Pierce (Rockford, IL).

**Cells and Cell Culture**

Normal newborn HFKs were prepared as described (Carter et al., 1991) and were maintained in serum-free keratinocyte growth medium (KGM; Clonetics, San Diego, CA). KGM contained insulin, EGF, hydrocortisone, and bovine pituitary extract. Primary cultures of human foreskin fibroblasts (HFFs) were prepared by collagenase digestion of neonatal foreskins as described (Carter et al., 1991). Plastic non-adherent peripheral blood lymphocytes were obtained from normal donors and were prepared as described (Wayer et al., 1988, 1989). Acute lymphocytic leukemias (ALL), T or B, were obtained from the peripheral blood of individuals undergoing treatment at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center (Seattle, WA) and were the generous gift of Dr. Bob Andrews (Seattle, WA). The ALL were frozen (FBS 90% and DMSO 10%) and stored in liquid nitrogen before use.

The monoclonal C4C4 HLA B7-specific cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) cell line has been described (Wayer et al., 1988, 1987). C4C4 cells were maintained in 10 U/ml recombinant IL-2 (Dr. D. Urdal, ImmuneX, Seattle, WA) and were routinely used 7-10 days after antigen stimulation with an HLA B7-positive EBV-transformed B cell line (ST-I). Lymphokine-activated killer cells or LAK cells were generated by incubating freshly derived PBMC in RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% FBS and 500 U/ml IL-2 for 7-10 days (Wayer et al., 1988). Molt 4 (human non-cytotoxic CD4+ T cell leukemia), HUT 78 (human CD4+ T cell lymphoma isolated from a patient with Sezary's syndrome), HUT 102 (human non-cytotoxic CD4+ T cell lymphoma isolated from a patient with mycosis fungoides), WI-38 (diploid lung fibroblasts) Ramos (human Burkitt lymphoma), U937 (human myelomonocytic leukemia), HT1080 (human fibrosarcoma), PC3 (prostate carcinoma), and A431 (epidermoid carcinoma) cells were obtained from the ATCC. The human KCA (B lymphoblastoid) cell line was a generous gift from Dr. Eugene Butcher (Stanford University, Stanford, CA), the K562 (erythroleukemia) cell line was a generous gift from Dr. Yoshi Takada (Scripps Clinic, La Jolla, CA), the UCLA P3 (carcinoma) cell line was a generous gift from Dr. David Cheresh (Scripps Clinic), and the A375 (melanoma, low metastatic variant) and H2981 (lung carcinoma) cells were generous gifts from Dr. Diane Horn (Oncogen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Seattle, WA). The Jurkat cell line (human non–cutaneous CD4+ T cell leukemia) was as described (Wayer et al., 1988, 1989). Unless stated otherwise, all cell lines were maintained in RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% FBS (HyClone).

**Preparation of ECM Adhesive Ligands**

Pepsinized human laminin from placenta was a generous gift from Dr. Helena Hessle (Telios Corp., La Jolla, CA). Human plasma fibronectin and collagens types I and III were prepared as described (Wayer and Carter, 1987; Wayer et al., 1988). Epiriligrin was immunoaffinity purified from HFK culture supernatant as described (Carter et al., 1991).

**Preparation of ECM**

ECM from human foreskin keratinocytes or carcinoma cell lines was prepared by growing cells for 3-4 d in KGM (HFK) or RPMI 10% FBS (carcinomas) on 48-well tissue culture plates (Costar Corp., Cambridge, MA) as described (Carter et al., 1991). The cell layer was removed by sequential extraction with 1% vol/vol Triton X-100 detergent in PBS, 2 M urea in 1 M NaCl, and 8 M urea. All extraction buffers contained 1 mM PMSF and 2 mM N-ethylmaleimide as protease inhibitors. The ECM was further digested with 10 μg/ml DNase for 30 min in 1% heat-denatured BSA before use in cell adhesion assays. ECM derived from WI-38 fibroblasts was prepared exactly as described (Wayer et al., 1988).

**mAbs**

mAbs to Basement Membrane Components. Monoclonal anti-laminin was a generous gift from Dr. Eva Engvall (La Jolla Cancer, La Jolla, CA), monoclonal anti-entactin (A9) was a generous gift from Dr. Alfred Fish (Department of Pediatric Nephrology, University of Minnesota, Minn.)

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Adhesion Assays

The cell substrate adhesion assay using ECM (HFK or WI-38) or purified ECM ligands and \( ^3 \)H-labeled cells was exactly as previously described (Wayner and Carter, 1989; Carter et al., 1991). Non-adherent cells were removed by washing with PBS supplemented with 1 mM CaCl\(_2\) and the adherent cells were dissolved in SDS/NaOH and quantitated in a gamma counter.

Modulation of cell-substrate adhesion with mAbs. The effects of modulating antibodies to integrin receptors on T cell adhesion were determined as previously described (Wayner et al., 1989; Woywer and Kovach, 1992). Cells were labeled with \( ^{25} \)I or NHS-biotin or metabolically labeled with \[^3\]S\]methionine and cystine (Wayner and Carter, 1987; Wayner et al., 1991, 1993). 

Flow Cytometry Analysis

Expression of \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \) by cultured hematopoietic cells in suspension was evaluated by indirect immunofluorescence staining and flow cytometry. The data were analyzed using CONSORT 30 software on a FACScan (Becton Dickinson, Mountain View, CA). Positive fluorescence was determined on a four decade log scale and fluorescence intensity (log F0) was expressed as the mean channel number of 5,000 cells. In tabulated data, the background fluorescence was subtracted. Analysis of or3 expression on freshly isolated peripheral blood lymphocytes in culture. Therefore, we examined the ability of the ECM deposited by cultured human foreskin keratinocytes (HFK) to support the adhesion of various T and B cell populations.

Adhesion of T Cells to HFK Matrix

The epidermal basement membrane is thought to be synthesized by basal keratinocytes and many of its components can be detected in the detergent insoluble ECM deposited by such cells in culture. Therefore, we examined the expression of the ECM by cultured human foreskin keratinocytes (HFK) to support the adhesion of various T and B cell populations.

T cells differed dramatically in their ability to adhere to HFK ECM (Table I). Of the tumor cell lines we examined, only T lymphocytes established from patients with CTCL (HUT 102 or HUT 78) could adhere to HFK matrix (Table 1). T cells established from patients with non-cutaneous leukemia (Mol 4) or lymphoma (Jurkat) did not attach to HFK matrix. With regard to non-malignant T cell populations, unactivated, plastic non-adherent peripheral blood mononuclear cells (85% T cells) did not adhere to HFK ECM while cultured alloantigen specific cytotoxic T cells (CTL) and IL-2-activated LAK cells exhibited significant binding. As we have previously reported, HT1080 cells adhered to HFK matrix. All of the T and B cell populations attached to matrix derived from WI-38 fibroblasts (not shown) demonstrating that the failure of non-cutaneous T cells and B cells to bind HFK ECM was due to an inability to bind secreted matrix. WI-38 matrix, as we have previously reported, contains multiple adhesive ligands including fibronecin and collagen (Wayner et al., 1988).

Lymphocyte Adhesion to HFK ECM Is Correlated with Expression of or3

As we have already reported, keratinocytes and other non-
Table 1. Adhesion of Lymphoid Cells to HFK ECM and Expression of the α3β1 Integrin Receptor

| T cells                        | ADHESION (HFK ECM)* | α3 (MFI)‡ | β1 (MFI) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| HUT 78 (Sezary's)             | 89                  | 48        | 61       |
| HUT 102 (Mycosis fungoides)   | 76                  | 79        | 156      |
| CTL (cytotoxic T lymphocyte)  | 42                  | 32        | 141      |
| LAK (IL-2 activated killer cell) | 22              | 46        | 189      |
| HSB-2 (non-cutaneous leukemia) | 12                 | 13(Sh)    | 118      |
| Jurkat (non-cutaneous lymphoma) | 2                  | 10(Sh)    | 174      |
| Molt 4 (non-cutaneous leukemia) | 4                  | 9(Sh)     | 118      |
| ALL-T (3)                     | ND                  | –         | 98       |

| B cells                      |                     |           |          |
| ST-1 (EBV transformed cell line) | 0                  | 8(Sh)    | 28       |
| Ramos (Burkitt's lymphoma)   | 2                    | –        | 76       |
| KCA (B lymphoblastoid)       | 8                    | 11(Sh)   | 51       |
| ALL-B (3)                    | ND                   | –        | 46       |

| Other                        |                     |           |          |
| PBMC (T and B)               | 0                    | 6.0(Sh)  | 661      |
| K562 (erythroblastemia)      | 0                    | –        | 19       |
| HT1080 (fibrosarcoma)        | 108                  | 446      | 584      |
| PC3 (carcinoma)              | 92                   | 184      | 278      |
| A375 (melanoma)              | 86                   | 23       | 62       |

* Adhesion expressed as percent of Con A (5 μg/ml) control.
† MFI, mean fluorescence intensity calculated as mean channel number minus the mean channel number for the negative non-immune IgG control.
§ Sh indicates a shift in the positive direction of the entire population and a (−) indicates no detectable fluorescence.
‖ Two subpopulations (β1high and β1low). The value shown in the table is the MFI calculated for the whole population.

The cells in Table I could be clearly divided into two populations relative to α3β1 expression (α3high and α3low). Only those cells able to adhere to HFK matrix expressed high levels of α3β1: CTCL (HUT 78 or HUT 102), LAK, and CTL were α3β1high while non-cutaneous T cells (Molt 4 and Jurkat), freshly derived PBMC, and all of the B cell populations we examined were α3β1low. The cultured T or B cell lines could not be so easily distinguished based on surface expression of other integrins such as α4β1 or α5β1 (not shown). All plastic non-adherent PBMC were weakly positive for α3 (Table I) and in some individuals, there appeared to be a subpopulation of cells which stained more brightly with mAbs to α3. Interestingly, in such individuals, this sub-population also stained with UCHL-1 (anti-CD45RO) identifying it as a "memory" T cell subset (Akbar et al., 1988). The α3β1high phenotype was also correlated with the expression of the CD45RO epitope in cultured T cell populations (HUT 78, CTL, LAK, but not Jurkat or Molt 4). As we and others have reported, HT1080 fibrosarcoma cells, A375 melanoma, and several carcinoma cell lines (A431 and PC3 cells) also expressed high levels of α3β1. Immunoprecipitation analysis with anti-α3 revealed that in CTL and HUT 78 cells, the integrin α3 chain was found in the form of a heterodimer containing a β1-like subunit (Fig. 1). The presence of β1 was confirmed by preclearing T cell detergent extracts with an anti-β1 mAb (P4C10) before immune precipitating with anti-α3 (P1B5). Under these conditions no α3 could be precipitated (not shown). Jurkat cells, which are α3β1high by flow cytometry, and HT1080 cells, which as we have already reported, are α3β1high (Wayner and Carter, 1987) are included as controls. The conjugates of α1, α2, α4 (p80/70, cleaved form), α5, and α6 complexed with β1 could also be immune precipitated from CTL, and α1, α4 (predominantly epithelial cell populations use the integrin α3β1 to bind to their secreted matrix (Carter et al., 1991). α3β1 expression on lymphocytes, however, is highly restricted (Wayner et al., 1988; Hemler, 1990). Therefore, we performed the following experiments to see if T cell adhesion to HFK ECM was correlated with expression of α3β1.

Figure 1. Immunoprecipitation of α3β1 from CTL, HT1080, HUT 78, or Jurkat cells. Surface labeled cells were extracted with 1% Triton X-100 in PBS, pH 7.4, containing 1 mM CaCl2 and protease inhibitors as previously described (Wayner and Carter, 1987; Wayner et al., 1989). Precipitation of integrins from detergent extracts of cells with α3-specific mAb (P1B5) exactly as described (Wayner et al., 1988; Wayner et al., 1989). Histograms were generated on a four log scale, analyzed with Consort 30 software and are expressed as MFI. Fc receptors were blocked with purified goat IgG (50 μg/ml). Staining for flow cytometry analysis was carried out at 4°C in the presence of 0.02% sodium azide and 1% normal goat serum.
The presence of anti-integrin mAbs was exactly as described for precipitated from HUT 78 cells (not shown).

p150, uncleaved form) and ot5 complexed with/31 could be functional), (inhibitory), (inhibitory), (inhibitory), (inhibitory); GoH3, ao (inhibitory); P4H9, ao (inhibitory).

T Cells Use a3B1 to Bind HFK and Carcinoma Cell Matrix

To directly test the possibility that T cells use a3B1 as the receptor for HFK matrix, we examined the attachment of HUT 78 cells to HFK ECM in the presence of mAbs to inhibitory epitopes on various integrin receptors (Fig. 2). The data summarized in Fig. 2 show that HUT 78 cell adhesion to HFK matrix (solid bars) can be completely abrogated by antibodies to ao (PIBS) or ao (P4C10). Inhibitory antibodies to ao (P1H5), ao (P4C2), ao (P1D6), ao (GoH3), ao (LM609), ao (P3G2), or ao (P4H9) either alone or in combination (for ao and ao) had no effect on HUT 78 cell adhesion to HFK matrix clearly indicating that the T lymphocyte receptor for HFK matrix is the functional conjugate of ao with ao. HUT 78 cells could also adhere to matrix derived from WI-38 fibroblasts (Fig. 2, striped bars). However, this interaction was mediated primarily by fibronectin as mAbs to ao (P4C10) or the lymphocyte fibronectin receptors, ao ao (P4C2 and P1D6, respectively) when used in combination completely inhibited this process. Interestingly, HUT 78 (Fig. 3) or HUT 102 (not shown) cells adhered to the ECM deposited by several malignant epithelial cell lines (Fig. 3, A431, HT29, UCLA P3). Adhesion of HUT cells to the ECM deposited by carcinoma cells could also be specifically inhibited by mAbs to ao (P3G2) or ao (not shown). These findings strongly suggest that the ECM derived from keratinocytes and epithelial tumor cell lines is unique and capable of supporting the adhesion of a3B1-positive T lymphocytes.

T Cell Adhesion to HFK ECM via a3B1 Can Be Inhibited by Anti-Epiligrin mAbs

Since epiligrin is the component in HFK matrix responsible for a3B1-dependent keratinocyte adhesion (Carter et al., 1991) it was of interest to determine whether HUT 78 cells could attach to surfaces coated with purified epiligrin (Fig. 4 A). As expected, these cells adhered to epiligrin and mAbs to ao and ao (Fig. 4 B) completely inhibited this. mAbs to other integrin receptors (ao2, PIHS; ao4, P4C2; ao5, PID6; ao6, GoH3; ao2, P4H9; ao (LM609; ao (P3G2) had no effect. ao a lymphocyte populations (such as Jurkat or ST-1 cells) did not adhere to surfaces coated with purified epiligrin (not shown) although such cells could adhere to surfaces coated with fibronectin (not shown).

These data (Fig. 4 A) strongly suggest that T cell adhesion to HFK ECM is a function of a3B1 interaction with epiligrin. However, in addition to epiligrin, HFK ECM contains adhesion molecules such as fibronectin and laminin (Fig. 5 A, P1H11 and 4C7) that have also been reported to be ligands for a3B1 (Gehlsen et al., 1990; Elices et al., 1990). Therefore, to determine the factor responsible for HUT 78 cell adhesion in HFK ECM we developed mAbs to HFK cells and screened them for: (a) their specific reactivity with HFK ECM; and (b) their specific ability to inhibit HUT 78 cell adhesion to secreted matrix. Of these, P3H9-2 and P3E4 reacted strongly with HFK ECM (Fig. 5 A, P1H11 and 4C7) that have also been reported to be ligands for a3B1 (Gehlsen et al., 1990; Elices et al., 1990).

Figure 2. HUT 78 cell adhesion to ECM derived from HFK or WI-38 fibroblasts: effect of anti-integrin mAbs. Cell adhesion to matrix in the presence of anti-integrin mAbs was exactly as described for Table I. mAbs used were: P4C10, ao (inhibitory), TS2/7, ao (non-functional), PIHS, ao2 (inhibitory), PIBS, ao3 (inhibitory); P4C2, ao (inhibitory), PID6, ao5 (inhibitory); GoH3, ao6 (inhibitory); P4H9, ao (inhibitory).

Figure 3. Adhesion of HUT 78 cells to ECM derived from HFK or epithelial cell lines. All epithelial cells were grown to confluency in 48-well plates. They were extracted as previously described and blocked with PBS supplemented with HBSA (Wayner et al., 1989). Cr-labeled HUT 78 cells were allowed to adhere to ECM-coated plates in the presence of purified mAb directed to ao (PIBS, 10 μg/ml) for 30 min. Bound HUT 78 cells were quantitated as described in the Materials and Methods and the legend to Table I.
Epiligrin (Carter et al., 1991) with anti-integrin mAbs. Adhesion to purified epiligrin (5 µg/ml coating concentration) was carried out in the presence of the indicated mAbs (ascites at 1/100).

with P3H9 in normal skin (Fig. 7, A and C, scalp) and tonsil (not shown).

**T Cell Adhesion to HFK ECM and Epiligrin Can Be Up-regulated by mAbs to β1**

Several T lymphocyte β integrins (αβ1, α5β1, α6β1) have been shown to require activation for ligand binding to occur (reviewed by Shimizu and Shaw, 1991). Activation can be achieved with T cell receptor cross-linking, phorbol esters, and mAbs to the integrin β1 subunit. However, it is not yet known whether α3β1 is similar and can also be activated for ligand binding. Therefore, we examined the effects of several activating mAbs to β1 (P4G11) for their ability to up-regulate adhesion of HUT 78 (α3β1<sup>low</sup>) or Jurkat (α3β1<sup>high</sup>) cells to epiligrin coated surfaces. Activating mAbs (data shown for P4G11) were selected for their ability to up-regulate adhesion of hematopoietic cells to fibronectin-coated surfaces. In sequential immunoprecipitation experiments they preclude the β1 complex from detergent extracts prepared with surface labeled HUT 78 cells (Fig. 8).

Although resting HUT 78 cells express basal epiligrin adhesion, such adhesion could be clearly up-regulated by activation with P4G11 (Fig. 9). Pretreatment with an inhibitory anti-β1 (P4C10), however, had the opposite effect. Interestingly, adhesion of P4G11-pretreated HUT 78 cells to epiligrin could be inhibited by mAbs to α3 (P1B5, not shown) showing clearly that up-regulated binding was mediated by the functional complex of α3β1. Interestingly, adhesion of Jurkat cells to purified epiligrin could be slightly up-regulated by P4G11 consistent with the low levels of α3β1 expressed by these cells (Table I). These findings (Fig. 9) were purified from culture supernatant and were used at 10 µg/ml (control, 10 µg/ml purified mouse IgG). HFK matrix was prepared as described in the Methods and Materials. P3H9-2 reacts with PIE1 purified epiligrin by ELISA. P3D4 and P3D4 are mAbs directed to the central cell binding domain and the carboxy-terminal cell binding domain of fibronectin, respectively. P3D4 inhibits lymphocyte adhesion to fibronectin (Garcia-Pardo et al., 1992).
show clearly that adhesion of T cells to epiligrin requires the participation of an active \( \alpha 3 \beta 1 \) complex and that the failure of \( \alpha 3 \beta 1 \) high cell populations to bind HFK ECM is a function of both \( \alpha 3 \beta 1 \) surface expression and activation.

**Co-localization of T Cells with the Epiligrin-containing Basement Membrane**

Together, the above data suggest that \( \alpha 3 \beta 1 \) interaction with epiligrin may be involved in T cell adhesion to basement membranes in situ. Therefore, we examined biopsy specimens from several inflammatory or malignant skin conditions for the presence and localization of \( \alpha 3 \beta 1 \)-positive T cells. Graft-versus-host disease is often associated with T cell infiltration of the basal epidermis. In several cases of cutaneous GVH we examined there was a clear tendency for CD3+ T cells to be localized in the basement membrane zone (Fig. 10, C and E) in close association with the epiligrin containing basement membrane (Fig. 10, B and D). Dual label studies with mAbs directed to well-characterized T cell antigens (CD3, CD8, CD45RO) revealed that the infiltrating cells in close association with epiligrin (Fig. 11 B) were activated or “memory” cytotoxic T cells (Fig. 11 A, A and B, same field). Due to the intense reactivity of basal keratinocytes with mAbs to \( \alpha 3 \) and the close association of T cells with the basal layer (Fig. 11, A and B) it was difficult to detect T cell specific \( \alpha 3 \) staining in these specimens even with dual label techniques.

**Immunohistochemical Comparison of T or B Lymphocyte Infiltrates in Skin**

We have shown that \( \alpha 3 \beta 1 \) high T cells bind epiligrin in HFK matrix, but that non-cutaneous T cells (\( \alpha 3 \beta 1 \) low) and B cells (\( \alpha 3 \beta 1 \) low) do not bind epiligrin with high affinity even when the \( \beta 1 \) complex is activated with mAb P4G11. To better define these apparent associations relative to disease pathogenesis and localization of T or B cells within the skin, we examined the correlative immunohistochemistry in adjacent tissue sections of benign T cell infiltrates (contact dermatitis) or malignant T cell infiltrates (CTCL) and compared them to malignant B cell (CBCL) infiltrates (Fig. 12). High-resolution light microscopy (plastic embedded, 1-\( \mu \)m sections; Fig. 12, A and B) revealed frequent localization of T lymphocytes in the basal layer directly above the epidermal basement membrane in contact dermatitis (Fig. 12 A, arrows). In Fig. 12 B, the infiltrating cells, in direct contact with the basement membrane, are stained with a T cell specific marker, Leu 1. Transmission EM (Fig. 12 C) confirmed the close association of Leu 1 positive lymphocyte plasma membranes (asterisks) with the basement membrane where epiligrin is found. Similar features were observed in CTCL biopsies (Fig. 12 D) and contrasted sharply with B cell infiltrates that did not infiltrate the epidermis or superficial dermal layers (Fig. 12 E). In Fig. 12 D, the mycosis fungoides (MF) T cells can be seen in association with the BMZ and throughout the...
Figure 8. Identification of activating mAb P4G11 as anti-β1 by sequential immune precipitation analysis with known anti-β1 P4C10. HUT 78 cells were surface labeled and extracted with 1% Triton X-100 in PBS as previously described in the legend for Fig. 1. Sequential preclearing was performed with the indicated mAbs. Four rounds of preclearing (Preclear) were carried out for each mAb or control supernatant (SP2). After preclearing, the lysates were immune precipitated (IP) with the indicated mAbs. P4C10 is a previously characterized inhibitory anti-β1 (Carter et al., 1990a,b).

Discussion

We have recently described a novel cell adhesion molecule (epiligrin) synthesized by basal keratinocytes (Carter et al., 1991). In tissue, epiligrin is localized to the lamina lucida of the basement membrane. In culture, epiligrin is a primary adhesive ligand synthesized by rapidly growing basal keratinocytes and is deposited into the detergent-insoluble ECM. The receptor for epiligrin used by keratinocytes and other non-epithelial cell populations is the α3β1 integrin (Carter et al., 1991). The results of the present studies show unequivocally that T lymphocytes also use α3β1 to adhere to epiligrin in the ECM deposited by normal dermal keratinocytes or carcinoma cells.

Although it has been known for some time that α3β1 is an activation-dependent T cell receptor, its function in T cells has until now been largely unknown. It is interesting that although α3β1 has been reported to be a laminin, collagen, and fibronectin receptor in non-lymphoid cell populations (Wayner and Carter, 1987; Gehlsen et al., 1989; Dang et al., 1990; Elices et al., 1991) HUT 78 cells and CTL appeared to use α3β1 exclusively to adhere to HFK matrix or epiligrin. In this regard, the Dang et al. (1990) study, in particular, deserves comment since these workers reported that mAb J143 (anti-α3) inhibited interstitial collagen-induced CD4+ T cell activation. Our studies contrast with those reported in this previous paper. Although HUT 78 cells expressed abundant cell surface α3 complexed with β1, they did not adhere to collagen types I or III. Furthermore, the results of inhibition studies with PIB5 (anti-α3) and P1H5 (anti-α2) which are well-characterized inhibitory reagents (Wayner and Carter, 1987; Wayner et al., 1988; Takada et
Figure 10. Immune peroxidase localization of epiligrin or CD3+ T lymphocytes in cryostat sections of skin derived from a patient with cutaneous graft-vs.-host (GVH) disease. (A, B, and C are serial sections. The four large arrows in D and E (400×) are included to indicate reference points for comparison. (A) Phase contrast micrograph of GVH skin stained with non-immune mouse IgG (2 μg/ml). The background staining with mouse IgG is negligible. BM, Epidermal basement membrane; BMZ, basement membrane zone. (B) Immune peroxidase staining of epiligrin with mAb P1E1 (Carter et al., 1991). Epiligrin staining is coincident with the dermal–epidermal boundary or basement membrane (BM, arrow). (C) Immunolocalization of CD3+ T lymphocytes in GVH skin. T lymphocytes are concentrated in the vicinity of the basement membrane in close proximity to the epiligrin. D and E are higher power views of B and C (400×). Bar (A-C), 100 μm.

Figure 11. Co-localization of CD45RO+ T cells and epiligrin in human GVH skin. (A) Immunofluorescence staining with UCHL1 anti-CD45RO+, mAb UCHL1 was detected with rhodamine conjugated goat anti-mouse. (B) Immunofluorescence localization of epiligrin. Biotinylated P1E1 (anti-epiligrin) was detected with FITC anti-avidin. The tissue is the same as that shown in Fig. 10. The BMZ is clearly infiltrated with large numbers of CD45RO+ T cells (CD3+, Fig. 10). In Fig. 11A, the T cells can be seen in intimate contact with the epiligrin containing basement membrane (A and B are the same field, arrow marks identical spot in each photograph for comparison).
Figure 12. Immunohistochemical localization of T and B lymphocytes in various cutaneous malignant and inflammatory disorders. (A–C) Localization of T cells within lower epidermis (EPI, epidermis; D, dermis) in allergic contact dermatitis. (A) One micron-thick, plastic-embedded section, arrowheads, representative lymphocytes above basement membrane (400×); (B) immunoperoxidase stain, Leu 1 (pan T cell antigen) (400×); (C) transmission electron micrograph, (*) lymphocytes; (arrowheads) points of close approximation between lymphocyte plasma membranes and basement membrane; (EPI) epidermis; (D) dermis (×5000). (D–K) Comparison of infiltrate patterns and antigenic phenotypes between mycosis fungoides (MF) and cutaneous B cell lymphoma (CBCL). (D) MF; (E) CBCL; note prominent migration of T cells (Leu 1+) into hyperplastic epidermis (EPI) in D, and sparing of epidermis (EPI) and superficial dermis (D, dermis) by B cells (Leu 12+) in E (D, Leu 1, ×100; E, Leu 12, ×100). (F) Clusters of Leu 1-positive T cells (arrow) within epidermis (EPI) in MF; (G) section adjacent to F stained for β1 with apparent staining of T cell cluster (arrow) and adjacent basal keratinocytes (arrowheads) (F and G, ×400). (H) Cluster of Leu 1-positive dermal T cells; (I) section adjacent to H showing α3 expression by the T cells. (J) Cluster of Leu 12-positive dermal B cells inset showing monotypic expression of surface k-type immunoglobulin light chains; (K) section adjacent to J showing relative absence of α3 immunoreactivity on dermal B lymphocytes (H–K, ×800).
tion. Malignant B cells that were not in situ did not infiltrate and MF) and a tendency for intraepidermal migration. This could explain the failure of such cells to interact with epiligrin in epidermal basement membranes. Furthermore, since we have shown that endothelial cells express α3β1 (Languino et al., 1990), these findings suggest that epiligrin may also be involved in endothelial cell–basement membrane interactions. In several experiments using mAb PIE1 we did not detect epiligrin in endothelial basement membranes (Fig. 10 B). This may be due to differences in antibody access to the antigen. However, data to be presented elsewhere indicates that the epiligrin forms expressed in epidermal and endothelial basement membranes are not identical.

α3β1 interaction with epiligrin has been proposed to be a key mechanism used by keratinocytes to adhere to the basement membrane (Carter et al., 1991). The results of several recent studies support this concept. Epiligrin is similar if not identical to another recently described epithelial basement membrane protein, kalanin (Rousselle et al., 1991; Marinkovich et al., 1992). mAbs to kalanin induce skin fragments to de-epithelialize in culture. Furthermore, epiligrin has been shown to be a target in acquired autoimmune and inherited blistering skin diseases and is identical to the BM600 antigen which is absent from the skin of patients with lethal junctional epidermolysis bullosa (Domloge-Hultsch et al., 1992). Together, these findings suggest an important role for α3β1 and epiligrin in determining the integrity of the skin. Our present findings further suggest a primary role for α3β1 and epiligrin in determining T lymphocyte activities in the basement membrane zone. In addition to epidermal migration, vacuolar alteration, satellite cell necrosis of basal keratinocytes, and blistering are key features of T lymphocyte-mediated inflammation. We propose that the interaction of activated or memory T cells with epiligrin via α3β1 contributes to their adhesion to the basement membrane in certain pathological cutaneous T cell disorders, such as GVH, chronic eczematous dermatitis, and mycosis fungoides (CTCL).

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