Circulating C3 is Necessary and Sufficient for Induction of Autoantibody-Mediated Arthritis in a Mouse Model

The Harvard community has made this article openly available. Please share how this access benefits you. Your story matters.

Citation
Monach, Paul A., Admar Verschoor, Jonathan P. Jacobs, Michael C. Carroll, Amy J. Wagers, Christophe Benoist, and Diane Mathis. 2007. Circulating C3 is necessary and sufficient for induction of autoantibody-mediated arthritis in a mouse model. Arthritis and Rheumatism 56(9): 2968-2974.

Published Version
doi:10.1002/art.22859

Citable link
http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:4456946

Terms of Use
This article was downloaded from Harvard University’s DASH repository, and is made available under the terms and conditions applicable to Other Posted Material, as set forth at http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:dash.current.terms-of-use#LAA
Circulating C3 Is Necessary and Sufficient for Induction of Autoantibody-Mediated Arthritis in a Mouse Model

Paul A. Monach,1 Admar Verschoor,2 Jonathan P. Jacobs,3 Michael C. Carroll,3 Amy J. Wagers,3 Christophe Benoist,1 and Diane Mathis1

Objective. For the inflammation characteristic of rheumatoid arthritis, the relative contribution of mediators produced locally in the synovium versus those circulating systemically is unknown. Complement factor C3 is made in rheumatoid synovium and has been proposed to be a crucial driver of inflammation. The aim of this study was to test, in a mouse model of rheumatoid arthritis, whether C3 synthesized within the synovium is important in promoting inflammation.

Methods. Radiation bone marrow chimeras between normal and C3−/− mice were constructed in order to generate animals that expressed or lacked expression of C3 only in hematopoietic cells. Parabiotic mice were made by surgically linking C3−/− mice to irradiated wild-type mice to obtain animals having C3 only in the circulation. Arthritis was induced by injection of serum from arthritic K/BxN mice.

Results. In bone marrow chimeras, synthesis of C3 by radioresistant cells was necessary and sufficient to confer susceptibility to serum-transferred arthritis. Parabionts having C3 only in the circulation remained sensitive to arthritis induction, and the cartilage of these arthritic mice contained deposits of C3.

Conclusion. In a mouse model in which the alternative pathway of complement activation is critical to the induction of arthritis by autoantibodies, circulating C3 was necessary and sufficient for arthritis induction.

The complement cascade is essential for the induction of inflammatory arthritis by autoantibodies in at least 2 mouse models (1–3). The role of complement in human rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has been more difficult to assess, but a contribution of this pathway is suggested by several findings. First, complement components are depleted (4,5) and complement degradation products are generated (6,7) in the synovial fluid in RA but not other types of inflammatory arthritis. Second, C3 is deposited on the surface of cartilage and synovium in RA (8,9), as it is in various rodent models (10–12).

The details of complement involvement are particularly clear in the K/BxN mouse serum-transfer model. K/BxN mice uniformly develop severe, symmetric, inflammatory arthritis due to activation of the KRN transgene-encoded T cell receptor by a peptide from the glycolytic enzyme glucose-6-phosphate isomerase (GPI) presented by the class II major histocompatibility complex molecule Ag7 (13), leading to massive production of anti-GPI antibodies. These antibodies can effectively induce arthritis upon transfer into other mice (14). Because a wide range of natural mutant and gene-disrupted mouse strains can be used as recipients, this serum-transfer model has allowed the delineation of many genes and cell types required downstream of autoantibody production (1,15–18). With regard to the complement cascade, factors B, D (Monach PA: unpublished observations), C3, C5, and the receptor for C5a (C5AR) are required, whereas Clq, C4, C6, and the complement receptors CR1, CR2, and CR3 are not (1,19). Thus, induction of arthritis requires the alterna-
tive pathway of complement activation, leading to production of the chemoattractant and activating mediator C5a. Recently, a similar requirement for alternative but not classical pathway elements was found for induction of arthritis by antibodies directed against type II collagen (20). Most studies of complement in RA have not differentiated between activation of the classical and alternative pathways, but one that did so indicated that local activation of the alternative pathway in synovial fluid is particularly characteristic of RA (21).

The details of C3 involvement in inflammatory arthritis are of particular interest, not only because this protein is involved in all of the major pathways of complement activation and subsequent activation of effector mechanisms, but also because both systemic and local synthesis have been well documented. A few years ago, one might have assumed that the obligatory source of C3 and other essential complement components would be the liver. The liver is thought to be the source of the vast majority of circulating C3, and although this protein has a relatively short half-life, its concentration in plasma is the highest of any complement protein, at 1.0–1.4 mg/ml. However, not only has the synthesis of complement proteins by leukocytes now been clearly demonstrated (22–24), but leukocyte-derived C3 was found to be sufficient for the generation of antibody responses to a model antigen (25) and to be both necessary and sufficient for optimal antibody responses to intradermal herpes simplex virus infection in mice (26,27). Production of C3 by the inflamed synovium from patients with RA has also been demonstrated (28), and both hematopoietic and nonhematopoietic cells were implicated as potential sources (29,30), leading to the proposal that local synthesis of C3 might be important in propagating inflammation (30).

Because it is not currently possible to test this hypothesis in human RA, we did so in the K/BxN mouse serum-transfer system by using bone marrow chimeras and parabiotic mice.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Mice.** C3−/− mice (31) were maintained locally; C57BL/6 (B6) mice and B6 mice congenic for the CD45.1 isoform were purchased from The Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME). Animals were maintained under specific pathogen–free conditions, and all procedures were performed in accordance with Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee–approved protocols ARCM-03204 and ARCM-03912.

**Bone marrow chimeras.** Recipient mice were lethally irradiated (6.5 Gy administered twice, 6 hours apart) and reconstituted intravenously with unfractionated bone marrow cells (BMCs) freshly obtained from the femurs of donor mice. Staining for the CD45.1 and CD45.2 isoforms on peripheral blood leukocytes (PBLs) showed that >95% of PBLs were of donor origin. Circulating C3 was measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and correlated perfectly with the capacity of the recipient to synthesize C3 (26). Chimeric animals were tested for arthritis susceptibility 6–12 weeks after reconstitution.

**Parabiotic mice.** Wild-type (WT) mice were lethally irradiated (10 Gy) immediately prior to parabiosis surgery. As described previously (32,33), animals were anesthetized and the skin incised from elbow to knee on one side. The elbows and knees of a pair of mice were sutured together through the musculature, then the skin incision was stapled and sutured such that the animals were joined by the dorsal and ventral skin. Parabions were given parenteral analgesia for 2 days and trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole in the drinking water for 2 weeks. In a pilot experiment using pairs of WT mice mismatched for CD45 isoforms, leukocytes from the nonirradiated partner were readily detectable in the irradiated partner by 7 days after surgery and comprised >90% of the circulating leukocytes.

**Figure 1.** Arthritis susceptibility in chimeric mice. A, All combinations of wild-type (WT) or C3−/− donors and recipients were used. Recipients were lethally irradiated, then reconstituted with unfractionated bone marrow cells. Five to 12 weeks after bone marrow reconstitution, mice were injected with 0.15 ml K/BxN mouse serum twice, 2 days apart. B, Arthritis was evaluated qualitatively by clinically assessing the severity in all 4 paws and quantitatively by measuring the thickness of the right ankle. Values are the mean ± SEM for 4 mice per group (WT cells into C3−/− mice and C3−/− cells into WT mice; P < 0.05) or the mean and range for 2 mice per group (C3−/− cells into C3−/− mice and WT cells into WT mice). Very similar results were obtained in a second experiment that included 2 mice per group (C3−/− cells into WT mice and WT cells into C3−/− mice).
leukocytes. Parabionts were tested for susceptibility to arthritis 5 weeks after surgery.

**Arthritis induction.** K/BxN mice were bred as described previously (34). Serum was collected at 7 weeks of age and stored at $-20^\circ$C. Serum was injected intraperitoneally by our standard protocol (14), as follows: 0.15 ml on day 0 and again on day 2. The 4 paws were assessed by the clinical score (0–3-point scale for each paw, where 0 = no swelling, 1 = either swelling confined to 1 or 2 digits or mild swelling of the larger structures, 2 = severe arthritis involving the wrist or ankle but extending along the dorsum of the paw to the bases of the digits, and 3 = intermediate severity [score between 1 and 3]). In addition, thickening of the right ankle (or of the unconstrained ankle in parabiotic mice) was measured using a precision caliper (Kafer dial thickness gauge with flat anvils; Long Island Indicator Service, Hauppauge, NY). Disease was routinely evaluated twice per week.

**Histologic assessment and immunofluorescence staining.** For frozen sections, the skin over an ankle was removed immediately after the animal was killed, and a piece of tissue ~10 mm long encompassing the ankle and midfoot joints was immersed in Tissue-Tek OCT medium (Sakura Finetek, Torrance, CA), flash-frozen in dry ice/ethanol, and stored at $-80^\circ$C until sectioned. Ankles were sectioned, without prior decalcification, using a tape transfer method (Instrumedics, Hackensack, NJ), as described previously (1,16). Sections were stored at $-20^\circ$C until used, at which time they were fixed for 5 minutes in acetone at 4°C, briefly allowed to dry, rehydrated with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) for 15 minutes, blocked with PBS containing 2% bovine serum albumin (BSA) and 0.1% Tween 20 for 45 minutes, stained with fluorescein-labeled antibody to C3 (F[ab']2 goat anti-mouse C3; ICN Biochemicals, Irvine, CA), diluted 1:200 in PBS/0.1% Tween 20 for 60 minutes, then washed 3 times with PBS/Tween 20 before placing coverslips using Gel/Mount medium (Biomeda, Foster City, CA).

For paraffin sections, fresh tissue containing the ankle and midfoot joints was fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde at 4°C overnight, decalcified with 3 changes of 0.375M EDTA (pH 7.5) at 4°C for 2 weeks, and then processed for paraffin sectioning and hematoxylin and eosin staining by standard techniques.

Microscopy was performed using a Zeiss Axioplan 2 instrument equipped with a Spot RT Slider camera (Diagnostic Instruments, Sterling Heights, MI) and IPLab imaging software (Scanalytics, Billerica, MA).

**Measurement of C3.** Circulating C3 was measured by ELISA, as previously described (26).

**RESULTS**

**A requirement for C3 synthesis by radioresistant cells.** The role of leukocyte-derived C3 was assessed in radiation bone marrow chimeras. This experimental...
approach leads to virtually complete replacement of a mouse’s hematopoietic cells with cells from a donor mouse, whereas nonhematopoietic cells remain of host origin. Thus, WT or C3-deficient recipients were lethally irradiated, then reconstituted with un fractionated bone marrow cells from either WT or C3−/− donors (Figure 1A).

Arthritis development after K/BxN serum transfer, whether evaluated by a clinical index or by ankle measurement, correlated perfectly with the ability of the recipients’ radioresistant cells to produce C3 (Figure 1B). Furthermore, when 2 mice from each of the critical groups (C3−/− BMCs into WT mice, and WT BMCs into C3−/− mice) continued to receive injections of K/BxN serum for a total of 4 weeks and arthritis was evaluated until day 42, the WT recipients continued to show severe inflammation, while disease never developed in the C3-deficient recipients (results not shown).

Histopathologic assessment of ankle joints confirmed the clinical impression of the presence or absence of inflammatory arthritis with the typical features of a dense mononuclear cell infiltrate of the subsynovial connective tissue, neutrophilic joint effusion, loss of cartilage, and marginal erosion of bone (Figure 2). According to immunofluorescence staining, arthritic ankles from WT recipients had prominent deposits of C3.
on the cartilage surface and in the synovium, whereas the nonarthritic ankles from C3<sup>−/−</sup> recipients did not (Figure 2). In short, production of C3 by leukocytes was not required for K/BxN serum–induced arthritis, even with prolonged administration of arthritogenic serum.

**No need for C3 synthesis by joint-resident cells.** The next question was whether C3 had to be produced by radiosensitive cells locally within the joint, or whether it could be made by parenchymal cells at distant sites and transported to the joints via the circulation. Therefore, we generated mice whose joint-resident cells could not synthesize C3 but whose circulation carried C3 that had been synthesized by cells distant from the joint. C3-deficient mice were surgically joined with WT animals immediately after the latter had been subjected to lethal irradiation in order to ablate circulating blood cells. As illustrated in Figure 3A, the irradiated WT partner in these pairs harbored parenchymal cells that produce C3 and introduce it into the circulation, but lacked hematopoietic cells that might produce C3. The C3<sup>−/−</sup> partner lacked C3 synthesis by both parenchymal and hematopoietic cells but would be exposed to C3 through its circulation due to anastomosis with the circulation of the WT partner (Figure 3A). Measurement of circulating C3 confirmed equal concentrations of C3 in both partners, at levels ~25% of those seen in B6 mice (results not shown). Upon transfer of K/BxN serum, clear manifestations of inflammatory arthritis were observed in 4 of the 5 C3<sup>−/−</sup> partners and all 5 of the irradiated WT partners (Figure 3B). Immunofluorescence staining of ankle joints confirmed that C3 was prominently deposited on the cartilage surface and in the synovium, even in animals whose only source of C3 was through the circulation (Figure 4).

**DISCUSSION**

Circulating C3, produced by parenchymal cells distant from the joint, is both necessary and sufficient for induction of disease in the K/BxN mouse model of antibody-mediated arthritis. The serum-transfer system allowed us to focus specifically on the role of C3 in the inflammatory effector phase, after high levels of autoantibodies had been produced. It remains possible that C3 made either by leukocytes or by joint-resident parenchymal cells plays an important role in the initiation phase of autoimmunity, or that these 2 sources make a nonessential contribution to the effector process.

It is reasonable to propose that C3 plays a role in human RA similar to that in the K/BxN serum-transfer system, particularly in the early stages of inflammation or in the reactivation of acute inflammation in previously quiescent joints. Although the specific autoantibody responsible for arthritis in the K/BxN mouse model is observed in only a minority of patients with RA (35), particularly in those with Felty’s syndrome or other extraarticular manifestations (36,37), there is now considerable evidence supporting the pathogenicity of autoantibodies in RA. First, the B cell–depleting monoclonal antibody rituximab is highly effective in treating many patients with RA (38). Second, a newly described mouse model links an RA-specific autoantibody (anti-citrulline-containing protein) to murine arthritis (39). The role of complement has not yet been assessed in this context, but findings made previously in other models are likely to remain relevant to RA; that is, the ability of diverse autoantibody responses to generate pathology resembling RA in mice (40) indicates a general sensitivity of joints to antibody-mediated inflammation and supports the generalizability of the principles determined using the K/BxN mouse model and other models.

The hypothesis that local C3 production is important in RA arose from the finding that more C3 is produced in rheumatoid synovium than in osteoarthritic synovium, as determined qualitatively or quantitatively using in situ hybridization to detect messenger RNA (mRNA) for C3 (28,30). Subsequently, several microarray analyses of synovial gene expression in either human patients or rodent models have yielded conflicting data on this point, sometimes showing an increase in synthesis of C3 (41,42) and sometimes not showing such an increase (43–45). Importantly, we also detected mRNA for C3 in mouse synovium by both complementary DNA microarray and quantitative polymerase chain reaction (data not shown), although we did not observe an increase as arthritis unfolded.

The mechanism and kinetics by which circulating C3 gains access to joints are uncertain but not difficult to envision. Because the synovial “membrane” (functionally, a combination of the subsynovial vasculature and the synovial lining) is rather permeable at baseline, roughly in inverse proportion to the mass of the macromolecule (46,47), and because C3, at 185 kd, is not extremely large, it would be expected that an abundant circulating protein of this size would have some passive access to normal synovial fluid. Indeed, although we are not aware of any reports in which C3 has been measured in normal synovial fluid, it has been readily detected in human osteoarthritic joint effusions at concentrations similar to those seen in RA, i.e., ~0.2–0.5 mg/ml (48,49).

The reason that concentrations in RA are not higher is probably related to local consumption (4–7,48).
because inflamed synovium otherwise loses its size-selective filtration and becomes about equally permeable to all macromolecules (46). Even if some increase in synovial fluid C3 is required for it to be locally activated and promote inflammation, increased local vascular permeability may be a very early feature of inflammatory arthritis. For example, studies in the K/BxN mouse serum-transfer model have shown that IgG-containing immune complexes selectively increase the permeability of periarticular vessels to IgG itself (50) and to a higher molecular weight (400 kd) tracer (51). Interestingly, complement is not required for this early vascular permeability (51); therefore, further research on the role of complement in this model will likely focus on downstream events, such as the role of complement receptors, particularly C5aR, on different populations of inflammatory cells.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to Vanessa Tran, Kimie Hattori, and Rabecca Yeamans for maintenance of the mouse colonies, Catherine Laplace for assistance with the figures, Teresa Bowman for preparation of histologic sections, and Larry Kozinn for preparation of the manuscript.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Mathis had full access to all of the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Study design. Monach, Carroll, Benoist, Mathis.

Acquisition of data. Monach, Verschoor, Jacobs, Wagers, Mathis.

Analysis and interpretation of data. Monach, Benoist, Mathis.

Manuscript preparation. Monach, Benoist, Mathis.

Statistical analysis. Monach.

REFERENCES

1. Ji H, Ohmura K, Mahmood U, Lee DM, Hofhuis FM, Boackle SA, et al. Arthritis critically dependent on innate immune system players. Immunity 2002;16:157–68.

2. Hietala MA, Jonsson IM, Tarkowski A, Kleinau S, Pekna M. Complement deficiency ameliorates collagen-induced arthritis in mice. J Immunol 2002;169:451–61.

3. Wang Y, Rollins SA, Madri JA, Matis LA. Anti-C5 monoclonal antibody therapy prevents collagen-induced arthritis and ameliorates established disease. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 1995;92: 8955–9.

4. Pekin TJ Jr, Zvaifler NJ. Hemolytic complement in synovial fluid. J Clin Invest 1964;43:1372-82.

5. Wu S, Britton MC, Schur PH, Austen KF. Complement components in synovial fluid: activation and fixation in sarcoplastic rheumatoid arthritis. Ann N Y Acad Sci 1969;168:161-72.

6. Mollnes TE, Lea T, Mellbye OJ, Pahlé J, Grand O, Harboe M. Complement activation in rheumatoid arthritis evaluated by C3dg and the terminal complement complex. Arthritis Rheum 1986;29: 715-21.

7. Olmez U, Garred P, Mollnes TE, Harboe M, Berntzen HB, Munthe E. C3 activation products, C3 containing immune complexes, the terminal complement complex and native C9 in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Scand J Rheumatol 1991;20: 183-9.

8. Cooke TD, Hurst ER, Jasmin HE, Bienenstock J, Ziff M. Identification of immunoglobulins and complement in rheumatoid articular collagenous tissues. Arthritis Rheum 1975;18:541-51.

9. Vetto AA, Mannik M, Zatarain-Rios E, Wener MH. Immune deposits in articular cartilage of patients with rheumatoid arthritis have a granular pattern not seen in osteoarthritis. Rheumatol Int 1990;10:13-9.

10. Matsumoto I, Maccioni M, Lee DM, Maurice B, Brenner M, et al. How antibodies to a ubiquitous cytoplasmic enzyme may provoke joint-specific autoimmune disease. Nat Med 2002;3:360-5.

11. Stuart JM, Dixon FJ. Serum transfer of collagen-induced arthritis in mice. J Exp Med 1983;158:378-89.

12. Van den Berg WB, van de Putte LB, Zwarts WA, Joosten LA. Electrical charge of the antigen determines intraarticular antigen handling and chronicity of arthritis in mice. J Clin Invest 1984;74: 1850–9.

13. Matsumoto I, Staub A, Benoist C, Mathis D. Arthritis provoked by linked T and B cell recognition of a glycolytic enzyme. Science 1999;286:1732-5.

14. Korganow AS, Ji H, Mangialao S, Duchatelle V, Pelanda R, Martin T, et al. From systemic T cell self-reactivity to organ-specific autoimmune disease via immunoglobulins. Immunity 1999;10:451-61.

15. Ji H, Pettit A, Ohmura K, Ortiz-Lopez A, Duchatelle V, Degott C, et al. Critical roles for interleukin 1 and tumor necrosis factor alpha in antibody-induced arthritis. J Exp Med 2002;196:77-85.

16. Lee DM, Friend DS, Gurish MF, Benoist C, Mathis D, Brenner MB. Mast cells: a cellular link between autoantibodies and inflammatory arthritis. Science 2002;297:1689-92.

17. Wipke BT, Allen FM. Essential role of neutrophils in the initiation and progression of a murine model of rheumatoid arthritis. J Immunol 2001;167:1601-8.

18. Corr M, Crain B. The role of FcεR signaling in the K/B x N serum transfer model of arthritis. J Immunol 2002;169:6604-9.

19. Solomon S, Kolb C, Mohanty S, Jeisy-Walder E, Preyer R, Schollhorn V, et al. Transmission of antibody-induced arthritis is independent of complement component 4 (C4) and the complement receptors 1 and 2 (CD11b/CD18). Eur J Immunol 2002;32: 644-51.

20. Banda NK, Thurman JM, Kraus D, Wood A, Carroll MC, Arend WP, et al. Alternative complement pathway activation is essential for inflammation and joint destruction in the passive transfer model of collagen-induced arthritis. J Immunol 2006;177:1904-12.

21. Brodeur JP, Ruddy S, Schwartz LB, Modley G. Synovial fluid levels of complement SC5b-9 and fragment Bb are elevated in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Rheum 1991;34: 1531-7.

22. Whaley K. Biosynthesis of the complement components and the regulatory proteins of the alternative complement pathway by human peripheral blood monocytes. J Exp Med 1980:151:501-16.

23. Botto M, Lissandrini D, Sorio C, Walport MJ. Biosynthesis and secretion of complement component (C3) by activated human polymorphonuclear leukocytes. J Immunol 1992;149:1348-55.

24. Okuda T. Murine polymorphonuclear leukocytes synthesize and secrete the third component and factor B of complement. Int Immunol 1991;3:293-6.

25. Fischer MB, Ma M, Hsu NC, Carroll MC. Local synthesis of C3 within the splenic lymphoid compartment can reconstitute the impaired immune response in C3-deficient mice. J Immunol 1998;160:2619-25.

26. Verschoor A, Brockman MA, Nkipe DM, Carroll MC. Cutting
edge: myeloid complement C3 enhances the humoral response to peripheral viral infection. J Immunol 2001;167:2446–51.

27. Verschoor A, Broekman MA, Gadjeva M, Knipe DM, Carroll MC. Myeloid C3 determines induction of humoral responses to peripheral herpes simplex virus infection. J Immunol 2003;171:5363–71.

28. Firestein GS, Paine MM, Littman BH. Gene expression (collage-nase, tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinas, complement, and HLA–DR) in rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis synovium: quantitative analysis and effect of intraarticular corticosteroids. Arthritis Rheum 1991;34:1094–105.

29. Guc D, Gulati P, Lemercier C, Lappin D, Birnie GD, Whaley K. Expression of the components and regulatory proteins of the alternative complement pathway and the membrane attack complex in normal and diseased synovium. Rheumatol Int 1993;13:139–46.

30. Neumann E, Barnum SR, Turner RH, Echols J, Fleck M, Judex M, et al. Local production of complement proteins in rheumatoid arthritis synovium. Arthritis Rheum 2002;46:334–45.

31. Wessels MR, Butko P, Ma M, Warren HB, Lage AL, Carroll MC. Studies of group B streptococcal infection in mice deficient in complement component C3 or C4 demonstrate an essential role for complement in both innate and acquired immunity. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 1995;92:11490–4.

32. Wright DE, Wagers AJ, Gulati AP, Johnson FL, Weissman IL. Physiological migration of hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells. Science 2001;294:1933–6.

33. Bunster E, Meyer RK. An improved method of parabiosis. Anat Rec 1935;57:339–43.

34. Kouskoff V, Korganow AS, Duchatelle V, Degott C, Benoist C, Mathis D. Organ-specific disease provoked by systemic autoimmunity. Cell 1996;87:811–22.

35. Matsumoto I, Lee DM, Goldbach-Mansky R, Sumida T, Hitchen CA, Schur PH, et al. Low prevalence of antibodies to glucose-6-phosphate isomerase in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and a spectrum of other chronic autoimmune diseases. Arthritis Rheum 2003;48:944–54.

36. Schaller M, Burton DR, Ditzel HJ. Autoantibodies to GPI in rheumatoid arthritis: linkage between an animal model and human disease. Nat Immunol 2001;2:746–53.

37. Van Gaalen FA, Toes RE, Ditzel HJ, Schaller M, Breedveld FC, Verweij CL, et al. Association of autoantibodies to glucose-6-phosphate isomerase with extraarticular complications in rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Rheum 2004;50:395–9.

38. Edwards JC, Szczepanski L, Szechinski J, Filipowicz-Sosnowska A, Emery P, Close DR, et al. Efficacy of B-cell-targeted therapy with rituximab in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. N Engl J Med 2004;350:2572–81.

39. Kuhn KA, Kulik L, Tomooka B, Braschler KJ, Arend WP, Robinson WH, et al. Antibodies against citrullinated proteins enhance tissue injury in experimental autoimmune arthritis. J Clin Invest 2006;116:961–73.

40. Monach PA, Benoist C, Mathis D. The role of antibodies in mouse models of rheumatoid arthritis, and relevance to human disease [review]. Adv Immunol 2004;82:217–48.

41. Adarichev VA, Vermes C, Hanyecz A, Mikez C, Bremer EG, Grant TT. Gene expression profiling in murine autoimmune arthritis during the initiation and progression of joint inflammation. Arthritis Res Ther 2005;7:R196–207.

42. Rioja I, Clayton CL, Graham SJ, Life PF, Dickson MC. Gene expression profiles in the rat streptococcal cell wall-induced arthritis model identified using microarray analysis. Arthritis Res Ther 2005;7:R101–17.

43. Thornton S, Sowders D, Aronow B, Witte DP, Brunner HI, Giannini EH, et al. DNA microarray analysis reveals novel gene expression profiles in collagen-induced arthritis. Clin Immunol 2002;105:155–68.

44. Van der Pouw Kraan TC, van Gaalen FA, Huizinga TW, Pieterman E, Breedveld FC, Verweij CL. Discovery of distinctive gene expression profiles in rheumatoid synovium using cDNA microarray technology: evidence for the existence of multiple pathways of tissue destruction and repair. Genes Immun 2003;4:187–96.

45. Devauchelle V, Marion S, Cagnard N, Mistou S, Falgarone G, Breban M, et al. DNA microarray allows molecular profiling of rheumatoid arthritis and identification of pathophysiological targets. Genes Immun 2004;5:597–608.

46. Levick JR. Permeability of rheumatoid and normal human synovium to specific plasma proteins. Arthritis Rheum 1981;24:1550–60.

47. Levick JR. A method for estimating macromolecular reflection by human synovium, using measurements of intra-articular half lives. Ann Rheum Dis 1998;57:339–44.

48. Perrin LH, Nydegger UE, Zubler RH, Lambert PH, Miescher PA. Correlation between levels of breakdown products of C3, C4, and properdin factor B in synovial fluids from patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Rheum 1979;22:647–52.

49. Hasselbacher P. Immunoelctrophoretic assay for synovial fluid C3 with correction for synovial fluid globulin. Arthritis Rheum 1979;22:243–50.

50. Wipke BT, Wang Z, Nagengast W, Reichert DE, Allen PM. Staging the initiation of autoantibody-induced arthritis: a critical role for immune complexes. J Immunol 2004;172:7094–702.

51. Binstadt BA, Patel PR, Alencar H, Nigrovic PA, Lee DM, Mahmood U, et al. Particularities of the vasculature can promote the organ specificity of autoimmune attack. Nat Immunol 2006;7:284–92.