Alteration of Th17 and Foxp3+ regulatory T cells in patients with unexplained recurrent spontaneous abortion before and after the therapy of hCG combined with immunoglobulin

JING SHA1*, FUMIN LIU2*, JINGFANG ZHAI1, XIAOYUN LIU2, QINGLIN ZHANG1 and BEI ZHANG1

1Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Xuzhou Central Hospital, Xuzhou Clinical School of Xuzhou Medical College; 2The Affiliated Hospital of Xuzhou Medical College, Xuzhou, Jiangsu 221000, P.R. China

Received October 20, 2016; Accepted April 18, 2017

DOI: 10.3892/etm.2017.4574

Abstract. We conducted this study to investigate the effects of the combination therapy of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) plus immunoglobulin (IG) on the levels of T helper 17 (Th17) cells and Foxp3+ regulatory T cells (Treg) in patients with unexplained recurrent spontaneous abortion (URSA). Twenty pregnant women with URSA underwent combination therapy of hCG plus IG. Flow cytometry was performed to measure the proportions of Th17 and Treg cells before and after treatment. RT-PCR and ELISA were applied to detect the concentrations of interleukin (IL)-17, IL-6, IL-10, and transforming growth factor (TGF)-β1 in the peripheral blood. The therapy of hCG combined with IG may induce a decrease in the Th17/Treg ratio and the Treg bias, which may be beneficial for the maintenance of pregnancy. The levels of Th17 cells and related cytokines IL-17 and IL-6 decreased after the treatment (P<0.05). At the same time, levels of Treg cells and the related cytokines IL-10 and TGF-β1 increased (P<0.05). The Th17/Treg ratio decreased significantly after treatment. In conclusion, the occurrence of URSA may be associated with the Th17/Treg balance disorder, and correcting the disorder may be one of the mechanisms behind the efficacy of combination therapy for URSA.

Introduction

The occurrence of two or more consecutive spontaneous miscarriages before the 20th week of gestation is defined as recurrent spontaneous abortion (RSA), a condition that affects 1-5% women of reproductive age (1). The etiology mainly involves genetic disorders, immune diseases, endocrine dysfunctions, infection and anatomic abnormalities (2). The cause of unexplained recurrent spontaneous abortion (URSA) remains unknown. However, it has been suggested that URSA is associated with the failure of fetal-maternal immunologic tolerance (3).

URSA affects approximately 50% of RSA patients, and it may be associated with the failure of fetal-maternal immunologic tolerance. Tolerance of the fetus by the maternal immune system is considered to depend on the interactions of an array of cytokines. Cytokines produced by CD4+ T cells may play an important role in maternal-fetal immunoregulation (2). The CD4+ T cells can be classified into the following subsets: T helper (Th)1, Th2, Th17, and regulatory T (Treg) cells according to their functions. A study indicated that altered immunity in URSA is dominated by the Th1/Th2 hypothesis (4). However, the Th1/Th2 paradigm is not enough to explain the mechanism regarding how the fetus is increased by maternal immune cells. The Th1/Th2 paradigm has been expanded to the Th1/Th2/Th17, and Treg cell paradigm. The Th17 and Treg cells were recently discovered as lymphocyte subsets with a unique differentiation and growth regulatory mechanism, which is different from Th1 and Th2 cells. These are known to play a major role in the development of autoimmune diseases and infection. Previous studies have shown that the imbalance of Th17/Treg may be associated with URSA (5-7). Large doses of immunoglobulin have been administered as immunotherapy to idiopathic RSA women (8,9). We improved the current methods by using small doses of immunoglobulin (IG) combined human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) hormone for the therapy of URSA women with a success rate of 95.1% (10).

In this study, we aimed to investigate the effects of the combined therapy of immunoglobulin plus hCG on Th17/Treg balance in URSA women.

Materials and methods

Sample selection. The study enrolled 20 URSA patients who had at least two consecutive spontaneous miscarriages that occurred before 20 weeks gestation and had no chromosomal,
anatomic, endocrine dysfunctions, or infections of the reproductive tract. The husband's semen analysis was normal. All the subjects were patients of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Affiliated Hospital of Xuzhou Medical College between June 2013 and April 2014. Their mean age was 26.05±2.31 years. Informed consent to participate in the study was obtained from the patients. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Xuzhou Central Hospital (Jiangsu, China).

**Immunoglobulin therapy and sampling time.** IG-combined hCG was administered to the study subjects as soon as pregnancy was confirmed by a positive urine β-hCG test. The therapy protocol was as follows: 0.3 g IG were injected intramuscularly every three weeks until 14 weeks of gestation, and 2,000 U hCG were injected intramuscularly every two days. Ultrasound was used to detect whether the embryo was in normal development between 12 and 13 weeks of pregnancy. The dose of hCG was decreased after the 13th week of pregnancy and finally discontinued. After pregnancy, 8 ml peripheral blood was drawn before treatment and at the 12 weeks of gestation (after treatment) respectively. Samples included 5 ml of K2EDTA anticoagulant and 3 ml procoagulant. All the pregnancies were ongoing beyond 28 weeks of gestation.

**Drugs and reagents.** IG (Franc Group), hCG (Taibang Biological Products Co. Ltd., Shandong, China), High-purity Total RNA extraction kit (Generay Biotech Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China), TIANScript RT kit (Tiangen Biotech Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China), polymerase chain reaction (PCR) kit of 2X Taq Master Mix (Vazyme Biotech Co., Ltd., Nanjing, China), DNA molecular size marker of 100 bp DNA ladder (Tiangen Biotech Co., Ltd.) and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit (Suzhou Calvin Biotechnology Co., Ltd., Suzhou, China) were used. Primers were produced by Sangon Biotech (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China).

**Total RNA preparation and cDNA synthesis.** Total RNA was isolated from EDTA anticoagulated blood using High-purity Total RNA Extraction kit (Generay Biotech Co., Ltd.). Synthesis of cDNA was performed using TIANScript RT kit (Tiangen Biotech Co., Ltd.) with a 20-µl reaction system. The whole process was carried out on ice.

**PCR.** Amplification reactions (25 µl) consisted of 2 µl of cDNA, 12.5 µl of 2X Taq Master Mix, 8.5 µl of ddH₂O, 1 µl of forward primer and 1 µl of reverse primer. PCR reaction was performed as follows: An initial denaturation step of 94˚C for 5 min, followed by 94˚C for 30 sec, 55˚C for 30 sec, 72˚C for 60 sec for 35 cycles and a final extension at 72˚C for 10 min. Primer sequences, the size of PCR product and annealing temperature are described in Table I. PCR products were observed on a 2% agarose gel that was stained with ethidium bromide, electrophoresed for 1.5 h at 40 mA and photographed under ultra-violet light. The OD ratio of target genes and β-actin was calculated to measure the mRNA levels of target genes relatively.

**ELISA to detect cell factor.** The absorbance of serum interleukin (IL)-17, IL-6, IL-10 and transforming growth factor (TGF)-β₁ were detected using the ELISA kit, the concentration was calculated in accordance with the absorbance value.

**Separation of PBMCs.** Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated using Ficoll-Hypaque (MP Biomedicals, Solon, OH, USA) density centrifugation. After washing with Hank's balanced salt solution, the cells were adjusted to a final concentration of 1x10⁷ cells/ml in RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (all from Gibco, Grand Island, NY, USA). Prepared PBMCs were stored at 4˚C in the dark.

**Flow cytometry.** To activate PBMCs, 1 ml of 1x10⁷/ml of cell suspension was incubated with 10 ng/ml PMA and 0.5 mM ionomycin (eBioscience, San Diego, CA, USA) for 5 h at 37˚C in a 5% CO₂ humidified incubator. Monensin (1 µl of a 1x,000 solution) (eBioscience) was also applied to enhance intracellular cytokine staining. After incubation, PBMCs were washed.
in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) with 0.09% (w/v) sodium azide (eBioscience) twice. This was followed by staining with the anti-CD3-FITC and anti-CD8-APC (both from eBioscience), and then incubation for 15 min at 4˚C. The cells were washed in PBS and fixed with fixation buffer (eBioscience). The cells were washed twice with 1X permeabilization buffer and incubated with 0.25 µg conjugated anti-human IL-17A-PE (both from eBioscience) at room temperature for 20 min. After intracellular staining, the cells were washed with 1X permeabilization buffer and resuspended in 0.5 ml of permeabilization buffer. The proportion of IL-17-producing T cells in peripheral blood lymphocytes were enumerated by flow cytometry.

To identify Treg cells, PBMCs were stained with 0.25 µg FITC-conjugated rabbit monoclonal CD4 antibody (dilution, 1:50; cat. no. 85-11-0048-42) and 0.25 µg APC-conjugated rabbit monoclonal CD25 antibody (dilution, 1:50; cat. no. 85-11-0048-42) for surface antigens, and 0.25 µg PE-conjugated rabbit monoclonal Foxp3 antibody (dilution, 1:50; cat. no. 85-11-0048-42), all purchased from eBioscience (San Diego, CA, USA), for intracellular molecules, as per the manufacturer’s instructions. PBMC (1x10^6) was washed twice in PBS following staining with the fluorochrome-conjugated antibodies specific for cell surface antigen markers for 20 min in the dark at 4˚C. In order to stain the intracellular molecule, Foxp3, cells were permeabilized with permeabilization/fixation buffer and stained with anti-Foxp3 antibody following the surface staining. PE-Rat IgG2a was used as an isotype control for anti-Foxp3-PE antibody. Cells were resuspended in 0.5 ml of staining buffer for subsequent flow cytometry analysis. The prepared cells were analyzed on a FACScalibur flow cytometer (BD Biosciences, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA). CellQuest Pro software (BD Biosciences) was used for data analysis.

Statistical analysis. Statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS 16.0 statistical program. Numerical data are presented as mean ± SEM. To compare the results of immunologic studies before and after hCG plus immunoglobulin treatment, paired t-test was applied. Correlations between IL-17 and IL-6, IL-10 and TGF-β1 were performed using Pearson’s correlation analysis. P<0.05 was considered to indicate a statistically significant difference.

Results

Th17 cells, Treg cells and the ratio of Th17/Treg cells in patients with URSA after the treatment of IG plus hCG. The percentage of Th17 cells (CD3^+CD8^+IL-17A^+T cells) in PBMC in the total patient population with URSA before therapy was 2.76±0.31%, and the percentage of this subset after therapy was 1.527±0.22% (P<0.01, paired t-test). Thus, the percentage of Th17 cells significantly decreased after therapy compared to before therapy (Fig. 1). The percentage of Tregs (CD4^+CD25^+Foxp3^+T cells) in PBMC significantly increased in patients with URSA following therapy at 4.21±0.59% as compared to before at 1.82±0.42% therapy (P<0.01, paired t-test). Thus, the percentage of Tregs significantly increased after therapy (Fig. 1). The mean Th17/Treg ratio in all
cultured human PBMCs with different κα-ββ* γαββ+ γαββ+ therapy (of the inflammatory cytokines IL-17A (also known as IL-17), associated with chronic inflammation through the secretion of Th17 cells and Treg cells are recently discovered lymphocyte populations (11,12). Recent studies reported that the proportions and concentrations of Th17 cells in the peripheral blood were increased in pregnant women with URSA than when compared to normal pregnant and non-pregnant women (6). This association correlated with the secretion of other inflammatory cytokines (14). To study the expression of IL-17 in women that have undergone abortion, we suggested that the activation of IL-17 could increase the expression of NF-κB, thereby reducing the number of proinflammatory cytokines and weakening its function. Therefore, progesterone cannot combine with a sufficient number of progesterone receptors, resulting in decidua dysplasia and inadequate nutrition for the embryo, finally leading to miscarriage (15). Treg cells comprise a subset of T-lymphocytes with pivotal immunological regulation effects in maintaining a stable internal environment and inducing immune tolerance to graft by inhibiting effector T-cell responses and conventional T-cell activation by promoting the secretion of suppressive cytokines (16). The role of Treg cells in immune tolerance is still unclear. Currently, Treg cells indicate immunosuppression by secreting immunosuppressive factors, such as IL-10 and TGF-β1, that contribute to inhibition of antigen presenting cells and antagonism of effector T cells (17). Several studies have shown that proportions of Treg cells in the peripheral blood and decidua of pregnant women with URSA were decreased when compared to normal pregnant women; they also presented with lower immunosuppressive activity than normal pregnant women (18,19). The adoptive transfer of pregnancy-induced CD4+CD25+ Treg therapy contributed to successful pregnancy and reduced the rate of spontaneous abortion of abortion-prone mice (20).

Our previous studies demonstrated that hCG inhibited the expression of TNF-α and INF-γ of maternal-fetal interface and reduced the embryonic resorption rate of abortion-prone mice (21). Bai et al cultured human PBMCs with different doses of hCG and found that hCG had significantly suppressed the effect on IL-6 and TNF-α mRNA expression, indicating that hCG could inhibit the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines (22). In the presence of IL-6, CD4+ T cells differentiated to Th17 cells by TGF-β1, resulting in autoimmunity and inflammation (23). Therefore, hCG can inhibit the differentiation of Th17 cells and increase the differentiation of Treg cells by inhibiting the expression of IL-6. Schumacher et al suggested that levels of hCG and Treg in the decidua and placenta of pregnant women with RSA were lower than those in normal pregnant women (24). Levels of hCG and Treg were positively correlated and hCG could upregulate the LH/CG receptor on the surface of Treg and attract Treg cells into the fetal-maternal interface, inducing the formation of immune tolerance state (24).

Immunoglobulin (IG) has been administered as immunotherapy to URSA women (8,25-29). Although the therapeutic effect of IG is controversial, recent meta-analysis of IG treatment revealed that IG has significantly higher success rate in women with immune abnormalities when compared to women without any immune abnormalities (30). The therapeutic effect of combining IG and hCG therapy on URSA women is still unclear. Currently, Treg cells indicate immunosuppression by secreting immunosuppressive factors, such as IL-10 and TGF-β1, that contribute to inhibition of antigen presenting cells and antagonism of effector T cells (17). Several studies have shown that proportions of Treg cells in the peripheral blood and decidua of pregnant women with URSA were decreased when compared to normal pregnant women; they also presented with lower immunosuppressive activity than normal pregnant women (18,19). The adoptive transfer of pregnancy-induced CD4+CD25+ Treg therapy contributed to successful pregnancy and reduced the rate of spontaneous abortion of abortion-prone mice (20).

The levels of IL-17, IL-6, IL-10 and TGF-β1 in the peripheral blood of URSA patients before and after therapy. The concentrations of Th17-type cytokines IL-17 and IL-6 was significantly decreased in the serum of patients with URSA after therapy (P<0.01, paired t-test). Treg-type cytokines such as IL-10 and TGF-β1 were significantly increased after therapy (P<0.01, paired t-test). Values are expressed as the mean ± SEM.

Discussion

Th17 cells and Treg cells are recently discovered lymphocyte subsets, that are different from Th1 and Th2. Th17 cells are associated with chronic inflammation through the secretion of the inflammatory cytokines IL-17A (also known as IL-17), IL-17F, IL-6, IL-21, IL-22 and TNF-α, which play a major role in the development of organ transplant rejection (11,12). Normal pregnancy is similar to an allograft. Nakashima et al found that there were lower levels of Th17 cells in the peripheral blood of normal pregnant women (13). Recent studies reported that the proportions and concentrations of Th17 cells in the peripheral blood were increased in pregnant women with URSA than when compared to normal pregnant and non-pregnant women (6). This association correlated with the secretion of other inflammatory cytokines (14). To study the expression of IL-17 in women that have undergone abortion, we suggested that the activation of IL-17 could increase the expression of NF-κB, thereby reducing the number of proinflammatory cytokines and weakening its function. Therefore, progesterone cannot combine with a sufficient number of progesterone receptors, resulting in decidua dysplasia and inadequate nutrition for the embryo, finally leading to miscarriage (15). Treg cells comprise a subset of T-lymphocytes with pivotal immunological regulation effects in maintaining a stable internal environment and inducing immune tolerance to graft by inhibiting effector T-cell responses and conventional T-cell activation by promoting the secretion of suppressive cytokines (16). The role of Treg cells in immune tolerance is still unclear. Currently, Treg cells indicate immunosuppression by secreting immunosuppressive factors, such as IL-10 and TGF-β1, that contribute to inhibition of antigen presenting cells and antagonism of effector T cells (17). Several studies have shown that proportions of Treg cells in the peripheral blood and decidua of pregnant women with URSA were decreased when compared to normal pregnant women; they also presented with lower immunosuppressive activity than normal pregnant women (18,19). The adoptive transfer of pregnancy-induced CD4+CD25+ Treg therapy contributed to successful pregnancy and reduced the rate of spontaneous abortion of abortion-prone mice (20).

Our previous studies demonstrated that hCG inhibited the expression of TNF-α and INF-γ of maternal-fetal interface and reduced the embryonic resorption rate of abortion-prone mice (21). Bai et al cultured human PBMCs with different doses of hCG and found that hCG had significantly suppressed the effect on IL-6 and TNF-α mRNA expression, indicating that hCG could inhibit the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines (22). In the presence of IL-6, CD4+ T cells differentiated to Th17 cells by TGF-β1, resulting in autoimmunity and inflammation (23). Therefore, hCG can inhibit the differentiation of Th17 cells and increase the differentiation of Treg cells by inhibiting the expression of IL-6. Schumacher et al suggested that levels of hCG and Treg in the decidua and placenta of pregnant women with RSA were lower than those in normal pregnant women (24). Levels of hCG and Treg were positively correlated and hCG could upregulate the LH/CG receptor on the surface of Treg and attract Treg cells into the fetal-maternal interface, inducing the formation of immune tolerance state (24).
of Ig was achieved mainly by the injection of IgG into the body. Maddur et al. found that Th17 cells and their effector cytokines were significantly decreased after the addition of Ig to cultured T cells, suggesting that Ig could inhibit the differentiation and amplification of Th17 cells, as well as the production of their effector cytokines. Ig was also able to significantly enhance Treg cells among memory T cells (31). In this study, we investigated the levels of Th17 and Treg as well as the related cytokines in the peripheral blood of pregnant women with URSA before and after treatment. We found that, after the treatment of Ig plus hCG, IL-17+ T cells and the related cytokines IL-17 and IL-6 levels were lower than before. However, Foxp3+ T cells and the related cytokines IL-10 and TGF-β levels were increased. This suggests that the therapy of immunoglobulin combined hCG is able to inhibit the differentiation of Th17 cells and increase the differentiation of Treg, thereby making the Th17/Treg paradigm into the Treg immune bias, inducing maternal immune tolerance to the embryo and thereby promoting the development of full-term pregnancy. This study also indicates that correction of the disorder of Th17/Treg balance may be one of the mechanisms through which immunoglobulin combined hCG can be used to treat URSA. Our previous clinical and animal studies have shown that the therapeutic effect of immunoglobulin plus hCG was superior to monotherapy (10,21). However, the mechanisms of combination therapy are still under exploration.

References

1. Li Y, Wang XQ, Zhang L, Lv XD, Su X, Tian S, Liu CM, Ma X and Xia HF: A SNP in pri-miR-10a is associated with recurrent spontaneous abortion in a Han-Chinese population. Oncotarget 7: 8208-8222, 2016.
2. Mei S, Tan J, Chen H, Chen Y and Zhang J: Changes of CD4+CD25hi regulatory T cells and Foxp3 expression in unexplained recurrent spontaneous abortion patients. Fertil Steril 94: 2244-2247, 2010.
3. Wang WJ, Liu FJ, Qu HM, Hao CF, Qu XL, Xiong-Wang, Bao HC and Wang XR: Regulation of the expression of Th17 cells and regulatory T cells by IL-27 in patients with unexplained early recurrent miscarriage. J Reprod Immunol 99: 39-48, 2013.
4. Raghupathy R, Makhseed M, Azizieh F, Hassan N, Al-Azemi M and Al-Shamali E: Maternal Th1- and Th2-type reactivity and Th17 cells in women with unexplained recurrent spontaneous abortion. Cell Immunol 197: 122-130, 1999.
5. Wang WJ, Hao CF, Yi-Lin, Yin GJ, Bao SH, Qiu LH and Lin QD: Increased prevalence of T helper 17 (Th17) cells in peripheral blood and decidua in unexplained recurrent spontaneous abortion patients. J Reprod Immunol 84: 164-170, 2010.
6. Sereshki N, Gharagozloo M, Ostadi V, Ghahari A, Roghaye MA, Mehrabian F, Andalib AA, Hassanzadeh A, Hosseini H and Rezaei A: Variations in T-helpers 17 and regulatory T cells during the menstrual cycle in peripheral blood of women with recurrent spontaneous abortion. Int J Fertil Steril 8: 59-66, 2014.
7. Wu L, Luo LH, Zhang XY, Li Q, Xu B, Zhou GX, Luo HL and Liu YS: Alteration of Th17 and Treg cells in patients with unexplained recurrent spontaneous abortion before and after lymphocyte immunization therapy. Reprod Biol Endocrinol 12: 74, 2014.
8. Hutton B, Sharma R, Fergusson D, Tinnmouth A, Hebert P, Jameson J and Walker M: Use of intravenous immunoglobulin for treatment of recurrent miscarriage: a systematic review. BJOG 114: 134-142, 2007.
9. Moraru M, Carbone J, Alessandro D, Castillo-Rama M, Garcia-Segovia A, Gil J, Alonso B, Aguarón A, Ramos-Medina R, Martinez Arrieta J, et al: Intravenous immunoglobulin treatment increased live birth rate in a Spanish cohort of women with recurrent reproductive failure and expanded CD56+ cells. Am J Reprod Immunol 68: 75-84, 2012.
10. Wang X, Liu FM, Du Y, Ye Y and Fang P: Combined intramuscular immunoglobulin and human chorionic gonadotropin therapy for prevention of recurrent spontaneous abortion. Acta Academiae Medicinae Sinicae 17: 368-370, 1997 (In Chinese).
11. Loong CC, Hsieh HG, Liu WY, Chen A and Lin CY: Evidence for the early involvement of interleukin 17 in human and experimental maternal allograft rejection. J Pathol 197: 322-332, 2002.
12. Ma L, Zhang H, Hu K, Lv G, Fu Y, Ayana DA, Zhao P and Jiang Y: The imbalance between Tregs, Th17 cells and inflammatory cytokines among renal transplant recipients. BMC Immunol 16: 56, 2015.
13. Nakashima A, Ito M, Yoneda S, Shiozaki A, Hidaka T and Saito S: Circulating and decidual Th17 cell levels in healthy pregnancy. Am J Reprod Immunol 63: 104-109, 2010.
14. Nakashima A, Ito M, Shiozaki A, Hidaka T and Saito S: Accumulation of IL-17-positive cells in deciding of inevitable abortion cases. Am J Reprod Immunol 64: 4-11, 2010.
15. Qin XJ, Liu FM and Liu XY: Expression and significance of IL-17A, NF-kB and PK in uterine decidua of unexplained early spontaneous abortion patients. Acta Academiae Medicinae Xuzhou 33: 132-153, 2015 (In Chinese).
16. Paust S and Cantor H: Regulatory T cells and autoimmune disease. Immunol Rev 204: 195-207, 2005.
17. Somerset DA, Zheng Y, Kilby MD, Sansom DM and Drayson MT: Normal human pregnancy is associated with an elevation in the immune suppressive CD25+ regulatory T-cell subset. Immunology 112: 38-43, 2004.
18. Arruvito L, Sanz M, Banham AH and Bainboim L: Expansion of CD4+CD25+ and FOXP3+ regulatory T cells during the follicular phase of the menstrual cycle: implications for human reproduction. J Immunol 178: 2572-2578, 2007.
19. Liu YS, Wu L, Tong XH, Wu LM, He GP, Zhou GX, Luo LH and Luan HB: Study on the relationship between Th17 cells and unexplained recurrent spontaneous abortion. Am J Reprod Immunol 65: 503-511, 2011.
20. Zencussen AC, Gerloff K, Zencussen ML, Rittschel S, Zambon Bertoja A, Fest S, Hontsu S, Ueha S, Matsuhashi K, Leber J, et al: Regulatory T cells induce a privileged tolerant microenvironment at the fetal-maternal interface. Eur J Immunol 36: 82-94, 2006.
21. Wang H, Liu FM, Liu XY and Zhu WX: The effect of hCG bind immunoglobin G on maternal-fetal interface's Th1/Th2 type cytokines and pregnancy's outcome of abortion model. Chinese J Birth Health Hered 21: 53-55, 2013 (In Chinese).
22. Bai H, Pan J, Jia X and Huang H: The inhibition effect of human chorionic gonadotropin(hCG) on mRNA expression of cytokines initiated inflammatory reaction. Chinese J Immunol 19: 193-203, 2003 (In Chinese).
23. Kimura A and Kishimoto T: IL-6: regulator of Treg/Th17 balance. Eur J Immunol 40: 1830-1835, 2010.
24. Schumacher A, Brachwitz N, Sohr S, Engelard K, Langwisch S, Doherty M, Alexander T, Taras A, Malherbe SF, Costa SD, et al: Human chorionic gonadotropin attracts regulatory T cells into the fetal-maternal interface during early human pregnancy. J Immunol 182: 5488-5497, 2009.
25. Carp HJ, Achiorn R, Toder V and Mashiah S: Intravenous immunoglobulin in the prevention of recurrent miscarriage. Br J Obstet Gynaecol 102: 509-510, 1995.
26. Coulam CB, Klyska L, Stern JJ and Bustillo M: Intravenous immunoglobulin for treatment of recurrent pregnancy loss. Am J Reprod Immunol 34: 333-337, 1995.
27. Christiansen OB, Pedersen B, Rosgaard B, Rosgaard A and Huthsh M: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of intravenous immunoglobulin in the prevention of recurrent miscarriage: evidence for a therapeutic effect in women with secondary recurrent miscarriage. Hum Reprod 17: 809-816, 2002.
28. Winner EE and Reed JL: Treatment with tumor necrosis factor inhibitors and intravenous immunoglobulin improves live birth rates in women with recurrent spontaneous abortion. Am J Reprod Immunol 60: 8-16, 2008.
29. Kim DJ, Lee SK, Kim JY, Na BJ, Hur SE, Lee M and Kwak-Kim J: Intravenous immunoglobulin G modulates peripheral blood Th17 and Foxp3(+) regulatory T cells in pregnant women with recurrent pregnancy loss. Am J Reprod Immunol 71: 441-450, 2014.
30. Clark DA: Immunological factors in pregnancy wastage: fact or fiction. Am J Reprod Immunol 59: 277-300, 2008.
31. Maddur MS, Vani J, Hegde P, Lacroix-Desmazes S, Kaveri SV and Bayry J: Inhibition of differentiation, amplification, and function of human Th17 cells by intravenous immunoglobulin. J Allergy Clin Immunol 127: 823-830.e1-7, 2011.