Chemokine gene transfection into tumour cells reduced tumorigenicity in nude mice in association with neutrophilic infiltration

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Summary
To study the effect of localised secretion of chemokines on tumour growth, the genes for human (hu) interleukin 8 (IL-8), hu-MCP-1 (MCAF), hu-MIP-1α (LDT78), murine (mu-MCP-1) (JE), mu-MIP-1α or mu-MIP-2 were introduced, via mammalian expression vectors, into Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, and the ability of transfected cells to form tumours in vivo was evaluated. The production of hu-IL-8, hu-MIP-1α or mu-MIP-1α by transfected clones did not influence the growth rate in vitro, but drastically suppressed tumour growth when injected subcutaneously (i.c.) into nude mice. However, clones transfected with hu-MCP-1, mu-MCP-1 or mu-MIP-2 did not show any significant difference in growth rate in vivo compared with clones transfected with vector alone. Histological examination of the site of injection of CHO clones transfected with hu-IL-8, hu-MIP-1α or mu-MIP-1α showed predominantly neutrophilic infiltration. These results indicate that chemokines have potent anti-tumour activity when released, even at low doses, at the tumour site, which may be mediated by recruitment and targeting of neutrophilic granulocytes to chemokine-releasing cells. Our studies highlight the potential usefulness of localised chemokine secretion in inducing potent host anti-tumour defensive responses.

Keywords: chemokine, interleukin 8, MIP-1α, LDT78, gene transfer, anti-tumour activity

Application of 'tumour cell-targeted cytokine gene therapy' has proven useful in predicting or assessing the potential anti-tumour activity of a cytokine in experimental animal systems. This approach has been used to investigate the anti-tumour effects of interleukin 2 (IL-2) (Gansbacher et al., 1990), IL-4 (Tepper et al., 1989), IL-6 (Mullen et al., 1992), IL-7 (Hock et al., 1991), interferon α (IFN-α) (Ferrantini et al., 1989), IFN-γ (Watanabe et al., 1989), tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α) (Blankenstein et al., 1991), granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) (Colombo et al., 1991) and granulocyte/macrophage (GM)-CSF (Columbec et al., 1993).

Although the chemokines IP-10 (interferon-inducible protein 10) (Luster et al., 1985) and MCP-1 (MCAF, JE) (monocyte chemotactic protein 1) (Matsushima et al., 1989) have recently been reported to have potent anti-tumour activity in vivo (Bottazzi et al., 1992; Rollins and Sunday, 1992; Luster and Leder, 1993), the other chemokine family members have not, thus far, been reported to have anti-tumour effects.

The chemokines are a superfamily of small proteins (M, 8000–14 000) secreted primarily by leukocytes and related by a conserved four-cysteine motif. The superfamily's two branches are classified as the C-X-C and C-C groups, as defined by spacing of the first two cysteins in the conserved motif (Oppenheim et al., 1991). Generally, C-X-C chemokines, such as IL-8 (the neutrophil attractant and activating factor) (Oppenheim et al., 1991), GRO MGS (melanoma growth-stimulatory factor) (Ansowicz et al., 1987), IP-10 (Luster et al., 1985), and MIP-2 (macrophage inflammatory protein-2) (Wolpe and Cerami, 1989) are potent chemoattractants and activators for neutrophils (Oppenheim et al., 1991), whereas the C-C chemokines, including such molecules as MCP-1 (Matsushima et al., 1989), MIP-1α (LDT78) (Wolpe and Cerami, 1989), and RANTES (regulated on activation, normal T expressed and secreted) (Schall et al., 1990) exhibit chemoattractant potential for monocytes and T lymphocytes (Oppenheim et al., 1991). The accumulation and activation of leukocytes at sites of inflammation is induced by locally produced and secreted chemokines.

Since the chemokines have been reported to attract and stimulate immune cells, we have, therefore, evaluated the tumorigenicity and host anti-tumour response in mice given injections of CHO cells genetically modified to secrete chemokines. We have used nude mice to circumvent allogeneic reactions to the transfected cells and immunoresponse to chemokines.

Materials and methods

Expression plasmids

Approximately 1.7 kb of hu-IL-8 cDNA and 0.33 kb of hu-MCP-1 cDNA were isolated from a cDNA library of lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-stimulated human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) and a phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA)-pretreated mononuclear cell line (THP-1) respectively (Matsushima et al., 1988; Furutani et al., 1989), and ligated into the BamHI HindIII-digested mammalian expression vector pHAPr-3pneo (Gunning et al., 1987). The other chemokine cDNAs were isolated by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using reverse transcribed total RNA of PMA plus phytotoxaemaglutinin (PHA)-activated human PBMCs for hu-MIP-1α (LDT78) and LPS-stimulated mouse spleen cells for hu-MIP-1α, hu-MIP-2 and hu-MCP-1 according to published protocols (Lipsan and Baserga, 1989). The following primers were used for hu-MIP-1α (Ohbuku et al., 1986): 5'-GTGAAGCTTACAAGCAGTGTCGACTTCTTCC-3' and 5'-CAGGGATCCCTTTCAAGGCTACGTCACCA-3'; for hu-MIP-1α, (LDT78) (Wolpe and Cerami, 1989), and RANTES (regulated on activation, normal T expressed and secreted) (Schall et al., 1990) exhibit
CC-3' and 5'-ACCGATCTTTCCAGGTAGTTCGCTTT-TGCC-3'. DNA fragments were cloned into the BamHI HindIII site of vector pUC119 followed by confirmation of nucleotide sequences using automatic DNA sequencer DSQ-1 (Shimazu, Kyoto, Japan) and then ligated into BamHI HindIII-digested pHαApr-3p-neo.

**DNA transfection**

CHO cells lines (ATCC, CCL61) were maintained in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 100 units ml⁻¹ of penicillin G, 100 μg ml⁻¹ of streptomycin and 10% fetal calf serum (FCS; Hyclone, Logan, VT, USA). Subconfluent cultures in 100 mm petri dishes were transfected with chemokine expression plasmids or vector alone in lipofectin (Gibco, Bethesda, MD, USA). After 48 h, G418 (Geneticin; Gibco) at 600 μg ml⁻¹ (active form) was added to the cells for selection. G418-resistant clones were randomly selected, isolated and expanded individually.

**Northern blot analysis**

Total RNA was prepared by guanidium isothiocyanate lysis followed by caesium chloride gradient ultracentrifugation. RNA (10 μg) from chemokine transfectants was denatured in formaldehyde formamide, separated by electrophoresis in the presence of formaldehyde on a 1.0% agarose gel and transferred to a nylon membrane filter (Schleicher & Schuell, Keene, NH, USA). Filters were prehybridised for 16 h at 42°C in Hybrisol I (Oncor, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) and hybridised with ³²P-labelled chemokine cDNA (specific activity > 5 x 10⁶ c.p.m. μg⁻¹) at 42°C in the presence of 50% formamide for 24 h, washed twice in 2 x SSC, 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS) at room temperature, followed by two washes in 0.2 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C for 30 min and then exposed to Kodak X-OMAT AR X-ray film (Eastman Kodak, Rochester, NY, USA) with intensifier screens at ~70°C for 24 h.

**Measurement of chemokines by radio immunoassay (RIA) or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)**

One million CHO transfectants in 1 ml of culture medium were incubated in a 24-well culture plate at 37°C for 24 h. The amount of hu-IL-8 and hu-MCP-1 in culture supernatant was measured by RIA using a rabbit polyclonal anti-hu-IL-8 or -hu-MCP-1 antibody developed in our laboratory (Endo et al., 1991). Both recombinant (r) IL-8 and rMCP-1 were labelled with ¹²⁵I by the Bolton–Hunter method as previously described (Matsushima et al., 1986). Polyclonal anti-IL-8 and -MCP-1 were obtained from New Zealand white rabbits immunised s.c. with 100 μg each of hu-IL-8 or hu-MCP-1 with complete adjuvant (Sigma) four times at weekly intervals and bled 1 week after final immunisation. The production of hu-MIP-1α was measured using the hu-MIP-1α ELISA kit (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA).

**Preparation of polymorphonuclear leucocytes (PMNs) and PBMC**

Human polymorphonuclear leucocytes (PMNs) were used for the chemotaxis assay of hu-IL-8, hu-MIP-1α, mu-MIP-1α, and mu-MIP-2. PMNs were separated from peripheral blood from healthy volunteers by Ficoll–Hypaque centrifugation, followed by sedimentation on a gelatin solution (2.5% (w v) in 0.9% sodium chloride) to remove red blood cells. PMN-

**Figure 1** Chemokine gene expression in CHO transfectants. Total RNA (10 μg) from (a) LPS-stimulated human PBMCs for hu-IL-8, -MIP-1α and -MCP-1, and LPS-stimulated mouse splenic cells for mu-MIP-1α, -MIP-2 and -MCP-1. (b) CHO cells transfected with vector alone, or (c) CHO cells transfected with chemokine expression plasmids were electrophoresed, transferred to nylon membrane filter, and hybridised with ³²P-labelled chemokine cDNA as described in Materials and methods.
Chemokine gene transfer reduces tumorigenicity in vivo
K. Hirose et al

rich fractions were collected and contaminating erythrocytes were lysed with lysing solution (Ortho, Raritan, NJ, USA) by incubation for 5 min at 25°C. The purity of PMNs was >98% with more than 95% neutrophils. The chemotactic activity of hu-, and mu-MCP-1 was assayed using human PBMC from healthy volunteers by Ficoll-Hypaque centrifugation.

Chemotaxis assay

Neutrophil or monocyte chemotaxis assays were performed using multimicro-well Boyden chamber (Neuroprobe, Cabin John, MD, USA) as previously described (Falk et al., 1990). A 25 μl aliquot of either supernatant (10^{-4} M N-formylmethionyl-leucyl-phenylalanine) (FMLP) (Sigma), hu-IL-8 (1-100 ng ml^{-1}), hu-MCP-1 (1-100 ng ml^{-1}) or phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) was placed in triplicate lower wells of Boyden chambers. A 8 μm (for monocytes) or 3 μm (for neutrophils) pore size polycarbonate filter (Nucleopore, Pleasanton, CA, USA) was placed in the assembly and 50 μl (1.5 × 10^6 cells ml^{-1}) of PBMCs, or PMNs was placed in each upper well. Chemotaxis chamber assemblies were incubated at 37°C in humidified 95% air/5% carbon dioxide for 1 h and filters were removed, fixed in 70% methanol and stained with Diff-Quik 1 and 2 (Kokusai Shiyaku, Kobe, Japan). Monocytes or PMNs that had migrated through onto the lower surface of the filter were counted under the microscope.

Animal studies

Seven-week-old male BALB/c nu/nu mice were purchased from Nihon Crea (Atsugi, Japan). Transplantation assays for each chemokine transfectant were performed successively in combination with CHO.neo as a control. Tumour cell injections were carried out using freshly prepared suspensions at a concentration of 1.5 × 10^6 cells ml^{-1}. The total number of

| Tumour          | Productionb (ng ml^{-1} 10^6 cells 24 h^{-1}, mean ± s.d.) | Activityb (chemotactic index, mean ± s.d.) |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| CHO/hu-IL-8     | 4 ± 1                                                        | 2.5 ± 0.3*                               |
| CHO/hu-MIP-1α   | 7 ± 1                                                        | 3.4 ± 0.5**                              |
| CHO/hu-MCP-1    | 82 ± 18                                                     | 4.7 ± 0.5**                              |
| CHO/mu-MIP-1α   | NT                                                          | 5.1 ± 0.6**                              |
| CHO/mu-MIP-2    | NT                                                          | 5.8 ± 1.1**                              |
| CHO/mu-MCP-1    | NT                                                          | 4.6 ± 1.1**                              |
| CHO.neo         | −                                                           | 1.1 ± 0.3                                |
| medium          |                                                             | 1.0                                       |

* The amount of hu-IL-8 and hu-MCP-1 in culture supernatants was measured by radioimmunoassay, and hu-MIP-1α was assayed using an ELISA system as described in Materials and methods. ** The chemotactic activity was measured using a multimicro-well Boyden chamber as described in Materials and methods. NT, not tested. *P<0.01 vs medium (Student’s t-test). **P<0.001 vs medium (Student’s t-test).

Figure 2 Comparison of the growth of control and chemokine-transfected CHO clones. Groups of six to nine mice were given injections of 3 × 10^6 tumour cells. Tumour growth was monitored as described in Materials and methods. ●, chemokine transfectant; ○, control transfectant (CHO.neo). *P<0.01 vs CHO.neo. **P<0.001 vs CHO.neo.
tumour cells injected per animal was $3 \times 10^6$, except for mixed tumour transplantation assay (see below). All injections were performed s.c. in the right lower abdominal quadrant via 27 gauge needles. Tumour volumes were measured in mm$^3$ with a vernier caliper and recorded by the formula $(a \times b^2) \times 2$, where $a$ is the larger and $b$ is the smaller of the two dimensions. All animal experiments were conducted in accordance with Animal Care and Use Committee guidelines of Kureha Chemical Industry.

Mixed tumour transplantation assay

The mixed tumour transplantation assay was performed by mixing CHO/neo ($3 \times 10^6$ cells) with CHO/hu-IL-8 ($1 \times 10^6$ cells), or CHO(mu-MIP-1a ($1 \times 10^6$ cells) and injecting them into nude mice as described above.

Histology

Tissues at the site of tumour injection were embedded in OCT compound (Miles, Elkhart, IN, USA) and snap frozen in liquid nitrogen. Six-micron cryostat sections were fixed in 90% ethyl alcohol and stained with haematoxylin and eosin.

Statistical analysis

Values in the table are expressed as the mean $\pm$ s.e. The significance of the differences was calculated using the Student’s $t$-test. Values of $P < 0.05$ were considered to be significant.

Results

Production of chemokine in transfectants

Twelve independent G-418-resistant colonies from each transfection of chemokine expression plasmid were isolated and expanded. One clone showing the highest level of mRNA expression for chemokine was selected for further study by the RNA blotting method, as shown in Figure 1. The CHO cells transfected with vector alone (CHO/neo: control) did not express any cross-hybridising endogenous chemokine genes. Furthermore, the production of chemokine was confirmed by assays of chemotactic activity, ELISA and/or RIA (Table I). Individual transfectants secreted substantial levels of chemokine activity, while control transfectant produced no chemotactic factor.

Inhibition of tumour growth in vivo

The transfection and expression of chemokine by CHO cells did not alter their growth properties in vitro as assayed by doubling time or morphology (data not shown). Chemokine-transfected clones as well as parental CHO cells transfected with vector alone were tested for tumorigenicity by s.c. transplantation into the flank of immunocompetent nude mice (T-cell deficient). Figure 2 shows representative results from three experiments of the in vivo growth rate of chemokine transfectants. CHO/hu-MIP-2, CHO/hu-MCP-1, and CHO/neo showed almost the same growth rate as control cells (CHO/neo) in vivo, whereas hu-IL-8-, mu- and hu-MIP-1a-expressing clone (CHO/hu-IL-8, CHO/mu-MIP-1a and CHO/hu-MIP-1a) grew significantly more slowly than control cells (CHO/neo). Table II shows tumour incidence and final tumour weight as assayed at 22 days after transplantation. The production of hu-IL-8 or hu- or mu-MIP-1a by tumour cells was associated with markedly suppressed tumour growth in nude mice. The growth inhibition was 86.7% for CHO/hu-IL-8, 30.7% for CHO/hu-MIP-1a and 94.4% for CHO/mu-MIP-1a. Furthermore, tumour formation was totally prevented in four of seven mice in the case of CHO/hu-IL-8 and in four of nine mice for CHO/mu-MIP-1a. In contrast, secretion of hu-, mu-MCP-1 or mu-MIP-2 by tumour cells did not cause a reduction or prevention of tumour growth.

Mixed tumour transplantation assay

Additional insight into the mechanism by which secretion of hu-IL-8 or mu-MIP-1a by a tumour suppressed cell growth in vivo came from assays of injections of tumour mixtures in which 3.1 mixtures of CHO/neo and CHO/hu-IL-8, or CHO/mu-MIP-1a cells were injected into nude mice. Although CHO/neo-tumour arose in 100% of animals, tumour developed in seven of nine or six of nine animals injected with a mixture of CHO/neo and CHO/hu-IL-8 or of CHO neo and CHO/mu-MIP-1a respectively, as shown in Table III.

Histology at the site of tumour cell injection

To elucidate the host cellular responses activated by chemokine production, histological analysis of the injection site was performed at 48 h after tumour cell ($3 \times 10^6$). challenge as shown in Figure 3. Few inflammatory cells infiltrated the CHO neo injection site. In contrast, the inoculation site of CHO/hu-IL-8. CHO hu-MIP-1a and CHO mu-MIP-1a contained a marked cellular infiltrate composed predominantly of neutrophils, as well as necrotic destruction of tumour cells. In contrast, the cellular infiltrate of sites injected with CHO/hu-MCP-1, CHO/mu-MCP-1 and CHO/mu-MIP-2 was very similar to that of the control CHO/neo or CHO injected recipients.

Discussion

Numerous papers have been published on the anti-tumour effects of transfection of tumour cells with cytokine genes (Colombo and Formi, 1994). Transfection with virtually all cytokine genes results in inhibition of tumour growth and cell migration. Table II shows tumour weight and incidence (number of mice with tumour number of mice injected) refer to day 22 after transplantation. Growth inhibition (%). *$P<0.001$ vs CHO neo (control) (Student’s $t$-test). **$P<0.01$ vs CHO neo (Student’s $t$-test).

Table II Tumorigenicity after chemokine gene transfer

| Tumour      | Tumour weight (g), mean $\pm$ s.d. | Tumour incidence |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| CHO/hu-IL-8 | 0.08 $\pm$ 0.04* (86.7%)          | 4.7              |
| CHO/neo     | 0.00 $\pm$ 0.00                  | 7.7              |
| CHO/hu-MIP-1a| 0.70 $\pm$ 0.29* (30.7%)         | 6.6              |
| CHO/neo     | 1.01 $\pm$ 0.25                  | 7.7              |
| CHO/hu-MCP-1| 1.01 $\pm$ 0.06                   | 7.7              |
| CHO/neo     | 1.08 $\pm$ 0.11                   | 7.7              |
| CHO/mu-MIP-1a| 0.05 $\pm$ 0.01* (94.4%)         | 4.9              |
| CHO/neo     | 1.07 $\pm$ 0.11                   | 9.9              |
| CHO/mu-MIP-2| 0.87 $\pm$ 0.35                   | 8.8              |
| CHO/neo     | 0.50 $\pm$ 0.30                   | 8.8              |
| CHO/mu-MCP-1| 0.50 $\pm$ 0.16                   | 8.8              |
| CHO/neo     | 0.72 $\pm$ 0.28                   | 8.8              |

*Mice were injected s.c. with $3 \times 10^6$ cells of tumour. *Tumour weight and incidence (number of mice with tumour number of mice injected) refer to day 22 after transplantation. **$P<0.001$ vs CHO neo (control) (Student’s $t$-test). **$P<0.01$ vs CHO neo (Student’s $t$-test).

Table III The effect of chemokines in mixed tumour transplantation

| Tumour         | Tumour incidence |
|----------------|------------------|
| CHO/neo alone  | 9.9              |
| CHO/neo plus CHO/hu-IL-8 | 7.7             |
| CHO/neo plus CHO/mu-MIP-1a| 6.9            |

*Mice were injected s.c. with CHO neo ($3 \times 10^6$ cells) alone. *A mixture of CHO neo ($3 \times 10^6$ cells) and chemokine-producing CHO (1 $\times 10^6$ cells). *Tumour incidence (number of mice with tumour number of mice injected) refer to day 22 after transplantation.
growth, mediated through infiltration of T lymphocytes and/or macrophages into the tumour site.

Ours is the first report demonstrating the inhibition of tumour growth in nude mice by secretion of IL-8 or MIP-1α, and this was accompanied by neutrophilic infiltration. Both purified IL-8 and MIP-1α have been reported to act on several types of immune cells (Oppenheim et al., 1991) but did not show tumour cell killing activity in vitro. On the basis of their in vitro properties (Wolpe and Cerami, 1989; Oppenheim et al., 1991), IL-8 and MIP-1α are reported to

Figure 3  Cellular infiltrate at the injection site of chemokine-producing CHO cells. Nude mice were injected s.c. with $3 \times 10^6$ cells. The mice were sacrificed 48 h later and the injection sites were processed for histological examination. All sections were stained with haematoxylin and eosin. Magnification $\times 200$. 
attract neutrophils and, perhaps, to activate anti-tumour properties of neutrophils. If neutrophils are responsible for tumour-growth suppression in nude mice, there are several possible mechanisms whereby IL-8- or MIP-1α-activated neutrophils might exert their effects. These chemokines activate neutrophils to release cytotoxic oxygen radicals and/or proteases, which could kill tumour cells. It is also possible for neutrophils to produce a soluble mediator of tumour cell killing such as TNF, IL-1 and IFNs in response to these chemokines, since neutrophils have been reported to be potent producers of cytokines (Lloyd and Oppenheim, 1992). Interestingly, mu-MIP-2, which has also been reported to be a chemokine for neutrophils in vitro (Anisowicz et al., 1987), showed only a very low level of neutrophilic infiltration, similar to that of the controls, and had no anti-tumour activity. This was perhaps due to insufficient attraction of neutrophils by the MIP-2-transfected cells. Although two research groups have independently demonstrated MCP-1 (MCAF, JE) secretion by transfected tumour induced monocyte-mediated tumoural activity in syngeneic (Bottazzi et al., 1992) and nude mice (Rollins and Sunday, 1991), we did not observe the suppression of tumour growth and monocyctic infiltration at the injection site of MCP-1-producing tumour cells. This discrepancy might derive from differences in the level of MCP-1 production by tumour cells. We may not have achieved optimal concentration of this chemokine for chemotactic effects on monocytes in vivo. It is also possible that CHO cell transfected neutrophils produce parallel, cross species-reactive cytokines which may have influenced the chemotactic activities of chemokine produced by the transfectants.

We have observed that mu-MIP-1α had much more potent tumoricidal activity than hu-MIP-1α in nude mice, perhaps because of species differences. Histological examination demonstrated that mu-MIP-1α resulted in greater accumulation in mu-neutrophils than hu-MIP-1α. Nevertheless, hu-MIP-1α is quite cross species-reactive, as previously reported (Dunlop et al., 1992). The mixed tumour transplantation assay demonstrated that the effects of hu-IL-8 and mu-MIP-1α were transmitted from producer to non-producer cells.

It was recently reported that gene transfer of IP-10, which is a member of the C-X-C chemokines superfamily, elicited a more potent host-mediated anti-tumour effect in syngeneic, immunocompetent mouse than in immunocompetent nude mice (Luster and Leder, 1993). The anti-tumour response of IP-10 is T lymphocyte dependent, not limited to secreting cells, and appears to be mediated by the recruitment of cell infiltrate composed of T lymphocytes in vivo. Since IL-8 is, also, a potent chemotractant for T lymphocytes (Larsen et al., 1989), an enhanced anti-tumour effect might be expected in syngeneic, immunocompetent mice, but this remains to be shown. On the other hand, MIP-1α is unlikely to show potent anti-tumour effects in syngeneic than in nude mice, because the injection site (s.c.) of Lewis lung carcinoma cells transfected with mu-MIPα to syngeneic mice contained very few infiltrating T lymphocytes (data not shown).

Although IL-8 was originally identified as a neutrophil chemoattractant, subsequent work has revealed its multifunctionality, as is the case with most cytokines. IL-8 can induce the migration of some tumour cells (Wang et al., 1990) and stimulate the growth of melanoma cells (Schadendorf et al., 1993). IL-8 has also been shown to be an angiogenic factor released by activated macrophage (Koch et al., 1992; Strieter et al., 1992). Since cell migration, proliferation and angiogenesis are all essential components of the metastatic process (Fidler et al., 1990), IL-8 expression by tumour cells may influence their metastatic capabilities. In fact, a recent paper has clearly demonstrated that the expression level of IL-8 correlated with the metastatic potential of human melanoma cells implanted into nude mice (Singh et al., 1994). However, we have not observed metastatic behaviour in CHO cells transfected with IL-8 in nude mice (data not shown). These contradictory observations may be explained by differences in the metastatic potential of different tumour cell types. Factors in addition to IL-8 production might be required for metastasis of CHO tumour cells.

The fact that MIP-1α, a C-C chemokine, results in the accumulation of neutrophils, but not monocytes, in our in vivo study was quite unexpected, because C-C chemokines have been thought to be predominantly chemotactic for monocytes (Oppenheim et al., 1991).

The local injection of immunomodulating agents such as LPS and PSK (protein-bound polysaccharide) (Nakazato et al., 1994), which are potent inducers of chemokines, at the tumour site (Matsushima et al., 1988; Hirose et al., 1990), could lead to tumour cell killing based on local chemokine secretion.

Chemokines may be useful clinically in combination with anti-cancer agents and/or other types of cytokines such as IL-2, IFNs, and CSFs, since they seem to have different anti-tumour mechanisms and to be well tolerated at high doses. This leads us to hypothesise that engineering tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) to express a chemokine might provide synergistic local tumour cell killing.

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