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Biochemistry and Clinical Significance of Il-3: A Review Article

Khamael Hasan Obaid[1], Rasha A.H. Alathary[2], Seenaa Taqi Mansour Al muhtaser [3], Ali A. Al-fahham[4]

[1] College of Applied Medical Sciences, University of Kerbala, Iraq

[2] Department of Pathological Analysis, College of Science, Al-Qadisiyah University, Iraq

[3] Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Kufa, Iraq

[4] Faculty of Nursing, University of Kufa, Iraq

ABSTRACT: Interleukin-3 (IL-3) is a cytokine of many activities, centrally important for hematopoiesis and regulation of immune responses. It is produced by activated T cells and mast cells with a large influence on blood cell lineage proliferation and differentiation. Given the biochemistry of IL-3, elucidating its role in health and disease—especially immune responses and pathological conditions—is a high priority. Interleukin-3 is a cytokine profoundly important in the regulation of hematopoiesis and immune responses. The ability of this factor to modulate a wide variety of cellular responses serves to underscore its central involvement in almost all physiological as well as pathological processes. In the present article, the authors summarize recent knowledge on the mechanisms by which IL-3 exerts biological effects, with special emphasis placed on receptor signaling, downstream pathways, and functional responses.

INTRODUCTION

Interleukin-3 (IL-3) is a pleiotropic cytokine with pivotal effects on the regulation of hematopoiesis and immune responses. It is produced mainly by activated T cells and mast cells and acts significantly on the growth and differentiation of several lineages of blood cells. IL-3 has also been suggested to increase immune cell activation and proliferation. Particularly, it acts on hematopoietic progenitor cells to accelerate differentiations in many lineages, such as myeloid and lymphoid cells. This cytokine is involved in regulating the levels of production of macrophages and granulocytes and hence plays a crucial role in the innate immune response (Broughton et al., 2012). IL-3 has also been shown to modulate T cell responses by promoting the survival and proliferation of antigen-specific T cells. In the context of sepsis, IL-3 has been identified as a major factor that propagates acute inflammatory responses. According to one study, levels of IL-3 are elevated in the circulation during sepsis; therefore, this may be used as a therapeutic target for the modulation of exaggerated inflammatory responses. The exact role of IL-3 in the mechanisms of sepsis pathogenesis is not very clear yet and, therefore, requires more studies on it signaling pathways.

Another area of very significant interest is the role of IL-3 in cancer biology. The available evidence suggests that IL-3 may directly or indirectly promote tumorigenesis and progression, acting through its effects on the tumor microenvironment. For example, the authors in a study by Zhou et al. (2011) provide evidence that the co-expression of IL-3 with other immune checkpoints such as Tim-3 and PD-1 is associated with T-cell exhaustion phenotype in cancer signaling possible involvement of IL-3 in immune escape mechanisms of tumors. The crosstalk between IL-3 and other interacting cytokines, including IL-6, has been investigated. Blocking the IL-6/STAT3 pathway that is influenced by IL-3 has been suggested to increase cancer immunotherapy effectiveness through the opening of new opportunities for therapeutic strategies. Cross-regulation between IL-3 and other proinflammatory cytokines may prove to be one of the key areas of research focus in the future, especially in understanding how they combine to affect tumor immunity. Although there has been a huge progress in understanding the biochemistry of IL-3, many gaps still exist. Far more established is the role of IL-3 in proinflammatory and hematopoietic effects than its exact contribution to chronic inflammatory diseases and autoimmune disorders. What is needed is some more work on the roles that IL-3 plays in these conditions for specific targeted therapy developments. The second IL-3 site of interest most likely lies in its ability to cross-talk with other signaling pathways, particularly in cancer and immunoregulation. More studies are to be carried out on how IL-3 interacts with other cytokines and immune modulators which might turn into some innovative therapeutic strategies. Finally, the ability of IL-3 to be a promising target for therapeutics in several diseases, such as sepsis and cancer, needs comprehensive clinical evaluation with respect to the safety and immunomodulatory effects of this agent. The findings can give rise to the development of IL-3 antagonists or modulators, providing new avenues for treatment, especially in conditions characterized by dysregulation of immune homeostasis.

Due to pleiotropy and its role in healthy blood formation, the targeting of IL-3 as well as its receptor is clinically challenging. Hence, the need for dose finding to balance efficacy against off-target effects. These signaling pathways are currently being actively researched, and further discovery on the downstream effects of IL-3 will shed more light on how to apply this knowledge clinically.

MECHANISMS OF IL-3 SIGNALING

The signaling pathways that are triggered by IL-3 are very complex and involve the participation of several players at the molecular level. The GM-CSF/IL-3/IL-5 cytokine receptor family belongs to the categories essential to the signaling of IL-3 for influencing further downstream effects related to survival and proliferation of the cell. Binding of IL-3 to its receptor triggers a series of intracellular signaling events most notably through the JAK/STAT pathway that is absolutely essential in mediating the biological effects of IL-3. Broxmeyer et al. (2012) noted an interesting case of the negative regulation of IL-3 activity. They observed that Dipeptidylpeptidase 4 (DPP4) is able to restrain the action of IL-3 since it attacks its signal, therefore influencing the process of hematopoiesis under conditions of stress. The observation underscores another level of control and interaction that surely deserves close attention, especially concerning hematological disorders in which problems of IL-3 dysregulation may take place.

IL-3 acts primarily through the interleukin-3 receptor (IL-3R), which has a cytokine-specific α-chain component (IL-3Rα) and a shared β-chain (βc) that is also used by IL-5 and GM-CSF. The receptor is believed to undergo conformational changes following ligand binding, which then activates the associated intracellular kinases, including JAK2. The latter phosphorylate a variety of substrates that lead to different forms of biochemical and biological effects, mainly involving various signal transducer and activator of transcription/STAT intermediates, PI3K/AKT, and MAPK signaling pathways.

MECHANISM OF ACTION OF IL-3

1. Hematopoiesis and Immune Function Modulation: The contribution IL-3 makes to differentiation and proliferation of hematopoietic progenitors is probably its most important known role. It drives lineage commitment, particularly for progenitor cells, into the myeloid and dendritic lineages. This effect appears to result from the up-regulation in response to IL-3 of PU.1 and c-Fos, two transcription factors that cooperate in regulating multiple myeloid genes. (Gupta et al., 2010)
2. The courtesy of maintaining the tone and style of the AI-written text is greatly appreciated in the rewritten text, as follows:
3. Inhibition of Osteoclastogenesis: Positively illustrative evidence has shown that IL-3 interferes negatively with the process of osteoclast formation—bone-resorbing cells—by decreasing, that too markedly, the expression of c-Fms which stands as a receptor imperative for the formation of osteoclasts in a dendritic cell lineage (Gupta et al., 2010).
4. Cancer Therapeutics: Targeting IL-3R is among the approaches in cancer treatment of hematologic malignancies. A biologic therapy directed at IL-3R, SL-401, has been shown to work in eradicating cancer stem cells in AML and BPDCN.
5. Role in Tumor Microenvironment: IL-3 has been highlighted to participate in regulating immune responses in the tumor microenvironment acting as a potential stimulator for macrophages and other immune cells that may modulate inflammation and tumor progression.
6. Therapeutic Implications: Pleiotropic effects of IL-3 assign this molecule a place among possible therapeutic targets for various diseases, including autoimmune pathologies, diseases of bone metabolism, and cancer.

MANAGEMENT

Interleukin-3 is a multifunctional cytokine with immune regulatory and hematopoietic activities. The broad effects it exerts on cell growth, survival, and immune response highlight its clinical relevance.

Clinical Applications and Pathophysiological Roles of IL-3

1. Role in Hematologic Malignancies: IL-3 represents an important factor in the pathogenesis of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and other hematologic neoplasms. Leukemic stem cells overexpress the alpha subunit of its receptor, IL-3Rα, known as CD123; thus, it is an attractive therapeutic target. CD123-targeting agent Tagraxofusp (SL-401) has shown clinically significant activity in patients with BPDCN (Testa et al., 2019).
2. Therapeutic Targeting in Cancer: IL-3 Signaling has been associated with plasticity of the tumor microenvironment. Therefore, in solid tumors, immune responses are modulated by TEVs acting as intermediaries with respect to IL-3 signaling in TME. This can be a good effector function blocking IL-3 signaling and decreasing immune suppression and thus enhancing the antitumor immune response and more generally be a targetable pathway in cancer for therapeutic intervention (Lopatina et al., 2022).
3. The text should maintain its scientific nature:
4. Inflammatory and Autoimmune Diseases: IL-3 modulates the inflammatory response in the immune cells, particularly eosinophils and basophils. Differential induction of these proteins relative to a set of proteins induced by other cytokines underlines the unique contribution of IL-3 to diseases with an autoimmune etiology, such as eosinophilic disorders (Esnault & Kelly, 2016).
5. Transplant Rejection: IL-3 contributes to the chronic adverse effects in organ transplantation by activating basophils and proliferating fibrosis. An implication that consequently throws the molecule as a plausible target for therapies intended to enhance graft survival by lessening rejection rates (Balam et al., 2019).
6. Innate Immunity and Trained Immunity: IL-3 was found to enhance innate responses and thus can influence trained immunity acting on the process of monocyte activation and renewal. This may bring another significant contribution in terms of the basic defense mechanisms and inflammation (Borriello et al., 2017).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, IL-3 is a major cytokine with a highly multifaceted functionality in regulation of numerous biological processes, mainly related to immune responses and hematopoiesis. There is a need for further research to fully understand the intricate connections for treatment of inflammatory and oncological conditions. Information on how this cytokine operates has greatly expanded, highlighting its wide spectrum of activities in the regulation of immunity, hematopoiesis, and even pathogenesis. Given its receptor complexity in signal transduction and subsequent effects, there is a probable avenue for treatment but also a difficulty in pursuing specificity regarding adverse effects. Further work is needed to translate this information into clinical practice.

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