



Frequency of Dendritic Cells and Their Expression of Costimulatory Molecules in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

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Abstract:

The aim of our study was to evaluate the frequencies of myeloid dendritic cells (mDCs) and plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs) in children with ASD. Subjects were 32 children with ASD and 30 healthy children as controls. The numbers of mDCs and pDCs and the expression of CD86 and CD80 on the entire DCs were detected by flow cytometry. ASD children had significantly higher percentages of mDCs and pDCs when compared to controls. We found significant inverse relationships between serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels and the frequencies of mDCs and pDCs in autistic children. Our data suggested that DCs could play a role in the clinical course of ASD. The relationship of DCs to immune disorders in ASD remains to be determined.

Keywords:

Autism spectrum disorders · Dendritic cells · Innate immunity · Children

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