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IMMUNE RESPONSE TO TSUTSUGAMUSHI DISEASE

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Tsutsugamushi disease is widespread in Asian-Pacific regions and it is assumed that about 50,000 new patients occur every year in Korea. Cellular and humoral immunity are involved in protection to *Orientia tsutsugamushi* infection and as the immunity to *O. tsutsugamushi* infection is strain-specific, 56-kDa protein, a strain-specific molecule, has been believed to be important in inducing protective immunity. To confirm this, we immunized C3H mice with the recombinant Bor56, a recombinant protein of 56-kDa protein of *O. tsutsugamushi* Boryong that contains 83rd to 534th amino acids, and could induce protective immunity. Antibody could be demonstrated by IFA assay in the sera of mice and also IL2 and r-IFN production could be detected by stimulating splenic mononuclear cells with *O. tsutsugamushi*. Although protective level induced by recombinant Bor56 is relatively low when compared with that induced by live *O. tsutsugamushi*, it can be expected that immunization with the recombinant antigen could prevent or modify the severity of the disease.

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GASTRIC EPITHELIAL IMMUNE RESPONSES TO *HELICOBACTER PYLORI* INFECTION: THE PROINFLAMMATORY GENE PROGRAM AND APOPTOSIS

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Gastric epithelial cells (GEC) that line the gastric mucosa are an initial site of interaction between *H. pylori* and the host. Early after bacterial infection, GEC rapidly activate NF- κ B which is a central regulator of the epithelial cell immune response. Following activation of NF- κ B, GEC upregulate the expression of a proinflammatory host gene program consisting of cytokines which can signal the initiation of the gastric mucosal inflammatory response. A second component of the GEC response to *H. pylori* infection includes the upregulated expression of COX-2, a key enzyme in prostaglandin synthesis and a regulator of epithelial cell growth, and the upregulated expression of iNOS. The upregulated expression of the adhesion molecule ICAM-1 may control epithelial cell-neutrophil interactions. Apoptosis is a later occurring GEC response to *H. pylori* infection. The apoptotic GEC response and proinflammatory neutrophil response are be linked, since immune mediators, including soluble form of Fas ligand and TNF α , produced by neutrophils can regulate the apoptotic response of GEC. The latter may function to cause mucosal cell loss manifesting acute gastric ulcer or chronic atrophic gastritis.