大学院特別セミナー

Lessons from research on autoimmune blistering diseases

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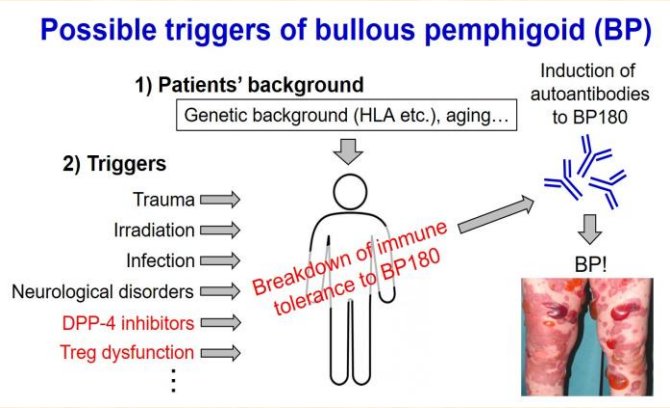
Bullous pemphigoid (BP) is the most common autoimmune blistering disease, and it is characterized by itchy erythema and tense blisters on the whole body. BP is induced by autoantibodies to type XVII collagen (COL17, also called BP180) and BP230. Recent studies demonstrated an increased risk of BP during dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors (DPP-4i) exposure in diabetic patients. We recently reported unique clinical and immunological features of DPP-4i-related BP and a strong association between HLA-DQB1*03:01 and the noninflammatory DPP-4i-related BP in Japanese patients.

We are also focusing on regulatory T cells (Tregs) which play a crucial role in peripheral immune tolerance in multiple organs, including the skin. We found that the dysfunction of Tregs induces autoantibodies to COL17 and BP230 in mice and humans, and both STAT6 and follicular helper T cells are also involved in autoantibody production in Treg-deficient mice. These new clinical and experimental findings give us important clues to the mechanism of the breakdown of self-tolerance to BP antigens.



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