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Abbreviations

aMM asymptomatic Multiple Myeloma	2
BM Bone Marrow	2
BMME Bone Marrow Microenvironment	74
BMPC Bone Marrow Plasma Cell	5
BMSC Bone Marrow Stromal Cell	4
CM hMSC-conditioned medium	30
CM-INA6 MSC-Conditioned-Medium-treated INA-6	43
CAM Cell Adhesion Molecule	4
CLI Command Line Interface	63
ECM Extracellular Matrix	4
EMT Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition	3
FACS Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting	69
GUI Graphical User Interface	63
hMSC human Mesenchymal Stromal Cell	73
LLM Large Language Model	63
MA MSC-adhering	38
MACS Magnetic-Activated Cell Sorting	76
MSC Mesenchymal Stromal Cell	74
MGUS Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance	2
MM Multiple Myeloma	2
MMR Multiple Myeloma Relapse	3
MBD Multiple Myeloma related Bone Disease	9
nMA non-MSC-adhering	38
OS Overall Survival	46
PCL Plasma Cell Leukemia	2
PFS Progression-Free Survival	46
SP Solitary Plasmacytoma	2
SASP Senescence-Associated Secretory Phenotype	9
WPSC Well Plate Sandwich Centrifugation	73

Introduction

Aims

This PhD thesis is designed to bridge significant gaps in the understanding and analysis of myeloma cell behavior and the handling of complex biomedical datasets. The specific aims are as follows:

- Develop an *in vitro* model to elucidate the mechanisms of myeloma cell dissemination in interaction with mesenchymal stromal cells (hMSCs), focusing particularly on:
 - Observing and quantifying cell proliferation, attachment, and detachment dynamics using time-lapse microscopy.
 - Isolating and characterizing distinct myeloma subpopulations interacting with hMSCs to understand differential gene expression related to cell adhesion and patient survival.
- Design and implement a Python-based software tool, `plotastic`, to facilitate the analysis of multidimensional datasets generated in biomedical research. This tool will aim to:
 - Streamline the data analysis process, making it more efficient and reproducible.
 - Integrate visualization and statistical analysis capabilities to ensure that data analysis protocols are aligned with the ways in which data is visualized.
 - Provide a case study demonstrating the application of `plotastic` in the analysis of *in vitro* dissemination experiments, emphasizing the tool's ability to handle semi-big data and enhance reproducibility.
- Synthesize the findings from the experimental and software development components to advance the understanding of myeloma dissemination and improve research practices in biomedical data analysis.

These aims are crafted to address both the biological and technical challenges in current cancer research methodologies and data science applications in biomedicine, fostering advancements that could lead to novel therapeutic strategies and more robust scientific inquiries.

Isolating & Quantifying Subpopulations within Cells in Direct Contact with MSCs

This project aimed to develop methodologies for isolating cells after direct contact with human Mesenchymal Stromal Cells (hMSCs). The primary challenge was the scarcity of *in vitro* methods that could effectively separate and isolate adhering cell subpopulations for subsequent molecular analysis. Most available techniques predominantly focus on the quantification of cell adhesion (Khalili & Ahmad, 2015; Kashef & Franz, 2015), and often employ indirect contact setups, complex micromanipulation, or are unsuitable for using live hMSCs as the immobilizing surface. To address the limitations of current adhesion assays, we developed and enhanced innovative methodologies, specifically the Well Plate Sandwich Centrifugation (WPSC) and V-Well adhesion assays.

Variability of Washing Steps: Given the complexity of the requirements, this project first attempts relied on simple and traditional adhesion assays that rely on manual washing steps (Humphries, 2009). Washing involves aspirating the medium, dispensing washing buffer, and potentially repeating these steps multiple times. This introduces variability due to differences in pipetting techniques, which affect the accuracy of volume transfer (Guan et al., 2023; Pushparaj, 2020). However, adhesion assays don't rely on precise volume transfer, but accurate detachment of cells adhering at the well bottom. This introduces a new set of considerations for the pipetting technique, especially since cells are highly sensitive to shear forces applied by fluid flow. From the author's experience with washing experiments and subsequent microscopic evaluations (data not shown), several factors could contribute to the variability of washing steps:

1. The distance of the pipette tip from the well bottom, which decreases during aspiration.
2. The position of the pipette tip relative to the well bottom (center or edge).
3. The angle of the pipette tip.
4. The speed of aspiration.
5. Accidental or intended contact between the pipette tip and the cell layer.
6. The residual volume left after aspiration.
7. *The same considerations apply when dispensing the washing buffer.*

In addition to user-dependent factors, other variables such as the cells' position on the well bottom can significantly impact the outcome. To the author's experience, cells located at the edge of the well don't detach as easily as those in the center, while cells touching the edge are almost impossible to remove. This phenomenon is likely related to the *boundary layer effect*, where fluids slow down near the edges of the well (Weyburne, 2014).

Together, since both user-dependent and independent factors can affect the outcome of washing steps, adhesive assays that replace washing are highly desirable. Still, since washing is straightforward and some variability is alleviated by the disciplined execution of washing protocols, it remains a common method for adhesion assays.

Directly Interacting Cells Contain Unexplored Interaction Scenarios: It is evident that direct and indirect contact to Mesenchymal Stromal Cells (MSCs) have varying effects on myeloma cells. That difference is crucial for understanding changes in the Bone Marrow Microenvironment (BMME) during MM progression (Fairfield et al., 2020; Dziadowicz et al., 2022). These studies utilize well-inserts to co-culture myeloma cells in close – indirect – contact with MSCs. However, such comparison of indirect *vs.* direct co-culturing methods might not fully represent the complexity of intercellular interactions scenarios found in the BMME. This is exemplified by this project, as it relied on the complex growth behavior: INA-6 cells aggregated homotypically in direct proximity to those adhering heterotypically to hMSCs, and detached through cell division. Furthermore, such methods fail to capture the subtle variations in paracrine signaling concentrations, where even a few micrometers of distance could significantly alter cellular responses.

Such knowledge shifted this project’s point of view as well: Initially, our hypothesis focused on direct heterotypic interactions, not expecting a nMA-INA6 population, but rather subpopulations within MA-INA6 cells that are separable by varying adhesion strengths. Hence, our assay employed strict conditions favoring one growth scenario – heterotypic interactions –, with co-cultures providing unlimited hMSC-surface availability causing predominantly heterotypic adhesion, while the short incubation time prevented the formation of aggregates. Despite these measures, our assay still captured cells emerging from recent cell divisions rather than from weak heterotypic adherence as initially hypothesized. This demonstrates the robustness of our method in separating subpopulations that arising from unexpected intercellular interaction scenarios. This can be a major advantage over methods that summarize direct interactions as one population. Analysing the non-adhering subpopulation within directly interacting cells could provide valuable insights not just in multiple myeloma, but also metastasis of other cancer types.

Minimizing Variability: There are innovative adhesion assays that both support the isolation of nonadherent subpopulations from directly interacting cells, and avoid variability introduced by washing steps.

One simple method involves flipping over a 96-well plate, with surface tension preventing medium spills as non-adhering cells fall to the surface for collection (Zepeda-Moreno et al., 2011). However, we found that the medium in fact did spill occasionally (not shown). Other approaches involve sealing the plate, such as with PCR plate seals, and using centrifugation to separate cells (Reyes & García, 2003; Y. Chen et al., 2021). Despite our efforts, we could not consistently avoid air bubbles, which, after flipping, would contact the cell layer and create dry regions during centrifugation.

The V-Well adhesion assay does not flip, but collects non-adhering cells into the nadir of V-shaped wells during centrifugation (Weetall et al., 2001). This work profited greatly from this method, while – to our knowledge – being the first to use cell monolayers as the immobilizing surface. We value this method for its precision, as centrifugation applies a uniform and configurable force, while the

readout remains straightforward, relying on the total fluorescent brightness rather than individual cell counting.

Specializing in Quantifying Adhesion or Isolating Subpopulations: Most adhesion assays primarily focus on quantification rather than isolation. The author attempted to combine both quantification and isolation, but found that the two goals can be mutually exclusive. The author summarizes the key differences between quantification and isolation approaches as such:

- Cell Manipulation for Harvest *vs.* Readout:
 - Isolation methods are designed to manipulate cells for easy harvest. For instance, the WPSC method uses a catching plate to collect non-adherent cells for subsequent analysis.
 - Quantification methods, on the other hand, manipulate cells to simplify the readout process. For example, the V-Well assay, which pellets cells into a single location, allowing for a pooled fluorescence measurement without the need for extensive cell handling.
- Optimization for Subsequent Analysis *vs.* Sample Throughput:
 - Isolation methods are optimized for detailed subsequent analyses, such as RNA or protein analysis. For example, WPSC minimizes the introduction of biases such as those from fluorescent staining, making it suitable for downstream molecular assays.
 - Quantification methods are optimized for high sample throughput. The V-Well assay, as an end-point assay, is designed to efficiently handle multiple treatments simultaneously, providing quick and comparative results with lower cell numbers.
- Handling of Cell Numbers:
 - Isolation methods, such as WPSC, require multiple wells (e.g., 96 wells) to gather a sufficient amount of cells per subpopulation, which is crucial for robust downstream analyses.
 - Quantification methods, exemplified by the V-Well assay, are highly efficient even with low cell numbers.

Thus, this adopted two distinct techniques for isolating and quantifying directly interacting subpopulations, each optimizing for different outcomes, but also supporting the separation of subpopulations within direct intercellular interactions.

Still, it is theoretically possible to insert microscopy steps into the WPSC method to scan the well bottom for later cell counting. Also, this work effectively isolated cell pellets from the V-well plate for subsequent fixation and cell cycle profiling. The process was tedious and required multiple technical replicates to achieve sufficient cell numbers for analysis. It also required removing hMSC from the V-well nadir to prevent contamination during pellet aspiration.

Together, while both methods can combine quantification and isolation, they are optimized towards either of them. Knowing these strengths and weaknesses could help to advance these methods in future studies.

Rationales of the Well Plate Sandwich Centrifugation: Inspired by the principles of both flipping and V-Well adhesion assays, we developed the Well Plate Sandwich Centrifugation (Well Plate Sandwich Centrifugation (WPSC)) method to address the challenges of isolating cell populations. This method innovatively combines elements from both techniques to provide a more reliable approach to cell isolation. One of the key advantages of WPSC is its ability to reduce the variability commonly introduced by manual pipetting. Instead of relying on aspiration, which introduce variability in cell collection and requires touching the well bottom for complete removal of medium, WPSC employs centrifugation to remove non-adhering cells. Medium is then returned by pipetting to repeat the process and maximize non-adhering cell collection, as the number of detachable cells plateau after few rounds of centrifugation. Hence, this approach compromises between minimizing washing variability and isolating larger quantities of cells.

The 96 well plate format has advantages, reducing spilling when flipping the sandwich, as surface tension kept fluids in place. The 96 well plate format also reduces per-well variability by performing the same washing procedure up to 96 times.

The slow centrifugation speeds used during WPSC are also decided after thorough consideration. For this, one has to discuss how exactly non-adhering cells detach during centrifugation. While centrifugal force is an obvious factor, the properties of cell adhesion are unclear under dry conditions during centrifugation. The author assumed that the cells are being pulled along by the medium as it is centrifuged into the catching plate. Hence, the centrifugation speed was chosen as fast enough to transfer the medium, without completely drying the co-culture plate and minimizing overall cell stress.

A significant challenge in WPSC is the dissociation of MA-INA6 from the hMSC monolayer. WPSC employs two distinct techniques to achieve this dissociation. The first technique involves repeated treatment with the gentle digestive enzyme Accutase followed by Magnetic-Activated Cell Sortings (MACSs). MACS, despite being effective, is costly, time-consuming, reduces overall cell yield, and potentially introduces biases due to CD45 antibody selection and the requirement for cold-treatment. The second technique utilizes strong pipetting to physically detach non-adhering cells (termed '*Wash*'). It is important to note that these techniques did not affect the protocol on detaching nMA-INA6 from the co-culture, hence providing for a consistent ratio of isolated MA-INA6 to nMA-INA6 across all experiments. Ultimately, we preferred *Wash*, as MACS had to be performed on all samples to ensure comparability, reducing overall cell yield which became limiting for downstream applications, especially for nMA-INA6 cells. Both methods achieved comparable purity of MA-INA6 cells, with few hMSCs per 10^4 MA-INA6 cells (purity assessment not shown). *Wash* probably profited from the highly durable nature of primary hMSC monolayers, whereas *MACS* required dissociation of the co-culture.

Together, WPSC offers a versatile solution for isolating hMSC-interacting myeloma cells. It

successfully balances the need for precision with the ability to handle larger cell quantities. WPSC could be adapted to other cell types that combines monolayer forming and suspension cells.

Key Points: Ultimately, this work established two methodologies that could represent a significant advancement in the field of adhesion assays, providing cost-effective, precise, reliable, and reproducible techniques for both isolating and quantifying subpopulations within co-cultures of directly interacting cell types. They offered valuable insights into the mechanisms of MM detachment and are potentially applicable to other research questions that focus on multicellular interactions and complex growth scenarios.

Ordering Thoughts

Predicting when a myeloma cell starts regulating adhesion factors is a key question in understanding dissemination.

Myeloma cells are isolated at certain sources at certain stages. This work boldly defines disease stage and location as two dimensions with different implications for adhesive behaviors.

The following paragraphs construct a narrative and checks for every step if there is evidence for it in this work or the literature.

First let's construct a framework that's at least reasonable, but not necessarily backed up by evidence:

Three dimensions where changes in adhesion factors are expected: 1 Location of Myeloma Cells (BM, vascular) 2 Disease Stage (asymptomatic MM, MM, MM relapse) 3 Cues that might trigger changes, or processes associated with changes or detachment

1 Location of Myeloma Cells: - Different locations could require different adhesion factors: - Circulating MM cells do not need adhesion, probably losing adhesion factors - BM cells express adhesion factors to adhere to (MSCs, adipocytes, and osteoblasts) - Extravasating/intravasating cells need adhesion factors for endothelium - Extramedullary cells need adhesion factors for respective tissues

2 Disease Stage: - Higher disease stages imply changes in adhesion factors that favor aggressiveness. - Aggressiveness includes: - Better Colonization of new niches, including extramedullary ones - This implies a more diverse set of available adhesion factors - Faster regulation to adapt to new niches - Better survival in circulation

3 Cues or associated processes: - Soluble signals? - Loss of CD138 (Akhmetzyanova et al., 2020) - Detachment through cell division -

Now let's gather evidence and embed it into this framework:

1 Location - The review by (Zeissig et al., 2020) could be a starting point. She does not discuss adhesion factors, but seeing dissemination as a multistep process does imply different adhesion factors for different steps. -

1. Location of Myeloma Cells

- Circulating MM cells typically lose adhesion factors like integrin $\alpha4\beta1$ and CD138, which are crucial for their transition from the BM to peripheral blood (Zeissig et al., 2020; Akhmetzyanova et al., 2020).
- BM-resident MM cells maintain high levels of adhesion molecules to interact with MSCs, adipocytes, and osteoblasts within the BM niche (Bou Zerdan et al., 2022; Burger, Guenther, et al., 2001; Chatterjee et al., 2002).
- During the extravasation process, cells require specific adhesion factors like JAM-C and CD138 to navigate and adhere to the endothelium (Asosingh et al., 2001; Brandl et al., 2022).
- Extramedullary MM cells adapt by expressing adhesion molecules that facilitate attachment to the respective tissues

2. Disease Stage

- At early stages, such as asymptomatic MM, cells primarily retain their BM niche with minimal alteration in adhesion factor expression (Abdallah et al., 2024; Akhmetzyanova et al., 2020).
- As MM progresses to symptomatic stages, there is a diversification in adhesion factor expression, enabling the cells to adhere to various new niches, including extramedullary sites (Asosingh et al., 2001; Akhmetzyanova et al., 2020; Dotterweich et al., 2016).
- In relapse, MM cells show enhanced regulatory flexibility in adhesion factor expression, facilitating rapid dissemination and colonization of different tissues (Keats et al., 2012; Bobin & Leleu, 2022).

3. Cues or Processes

- Soluble signals within the BM microenvironment, such as cytokines and chemokines, play significant roles in modulating adhesion factor expression in MM cells (Aggarwal et al., 2006; Alsayed et al., 2007).
- The dynamic expression of CD138, in particular, has been implicated in the regulation of MM cell detachment and circulation (Akhmetzyanova et al., 2020).
- Additionally, cell division-related detachment can contribute to MM cell dissemination, as cells divide and detach, facilitating movement to new niches (Dotterweich et al., 2016; Chatterjee et al., 2002).

Dynamic Regulation of Adhesion Factors During Dissemination

This work showed that INA-6 cells dynamically upregulate adhesion factors when in direct contact with hMSCs. Such adhesion factors are not expressed by INA-6 cells without contact to hMSCs, or by INA-6 cells emerging as daughter cells from MA-INA6 cells. This implies that myeloma cells are capable of rapid changes in adhesion factor expression that are substantially dynamic. Predicting when a myeloma cell starts regulating adhesion factors is a key question in understanding dissemination.

The following paragraphs discuss how the idea of dynamic adhesion factor expression holds up against current knowledge.

This is in line substantial dynamics of myeloma cells to regulate adhesion factors according to their environment.

This implies that myeloma cells dynamically regulate adhesion factors during colonization of new niches.

INA-6 was initially isolated from plasma cell leukemia as an extramedullary plasmacytoma located in the pleura from a donor of age.

For example, circulating MM cells show lower levels of integrin $\alpha4\beta1$ compared to those residing in the BM. Furthermore, treatment with a syndecan-1 blocking antibody has been shown to rapidly induce the mobilization of MM cells from the BM to peripheral blood in mouse models, suggesting that alterations in adhesion molecule expression facilitate MM cell release (Zeissig et al., 2020).

There is not much more information available on the background of that patient (*Two New Interleukin-6 Dependent Plasma Cell Lines Carrying a Chromosomal Abnormality Involving the IL-6 Gene Locus. Abstract Two Plasma Cell Lines, INA-6 and JK-6, Have Been Initiated and Continuously Cultured from Two Patients with Malignant Plasma Cell Diseases. Both Cell Lines Are EBNA Negative and Show Morphological and Immunophenotypical Features of Plasma Cells. INA-6 Expresses the CD39 and CDw75 Antigens, JK-6 Is Strongly Positive with CD38 and CD39 Antibodies. By Flow Cytometry They Were Non-Reactive with Ia Antibodies and B Cell Reagents CD19, CD20, CD21, CD22, and CD24. While INA-6 Cells Are Releasing Kappa Light Chains Only, JK-6 Cells Produce IgG Kappa. Both Cell Lines Could Only Be Initiated with IL-6 Supplemented Medium and Remained IL-6 Responsive throughout Continuous Culture. INA-6 Is Strictly Dependent on IL-6. No Spontaneously Secreted IL-6 Was Found nor Could It Be Induced by IL-1 β /TNF α Stimulation. Molecular Analysis with RT-PCR Revealed mRNA for the IL-6 Receptor in Both Lines. No IL-6 mRNA Was Detectable in INA-6 Cells, While in JK-6 Minute Amounts Were Observed. Cytogenetic Analysis of Both Lines Revealed, among Other Abnormalities, a Deletion (7)(P13). Interestingly, the 7p Deletion Affects the Location of the IL-6 Gene. In Both Cell Lines, IL-6 Dependent Proliferation Could Be Inhibited by IFN α . IFN α Had Growth Regulatory Effects Only on JK-6:*

While High Concentrations Were Inhibitory, Low IFNalpha Amounts Were Clearly Stimulatory. A Wide Variety of Other Cytokines Including GM-CSF and IL-11 Did Not Have the Capacity to Influence Proliferation. These Plasma Cell Lines Do Not Only Allow to Further Characterize Regulatory Events in Plasma Cell Neoplasias but Also Provide Tools to Study Therapeutic Interventions., n.d.; Burger, Guenther, et al., 2001). But assuming that This is a highly advanced stage of myeloma. However, Chapter 1 shows that adhesion factors are lost during MM progression. INA-6 are highly adhesive to hMSCs. This is a contradiction that needs to be resolved.

This assumption dictates that aggressive myeloma cells gain the ability to dynamically express adhesion factors. It could be that INA-6 has gained the capability to express adhesion factors fast in order to colonize new niches, such as pleura from which they were isolated.

This shows that not just the stage of the disease, but also the location of the myeloma cells plays a role when considering adhesion factors.

According to this, this thesis predicts a low expression of adhesion factors in circulating myeloma cells, but a high expression in adhesive cells, e.g. non-circulating, or rather those

indeed CD138 paper isolated cells from circulating MM cells (Akhmetzyanova et al., 2020)

indeed, temporal subclones have been identified (Keats et al., 2012).

Subsets of Adhesion Factors Contribute To Different Steps of Dissemination

- adhesion molecules during vascular involvement have these adhesion molecules: JAM-C and CD138. - NONE of Them were shown in Chapter 2 of this study, (except for JAM-B)

- One has to consider that intravasation and/or extravasation would require a different set of adhesion factors than adhesion to BM or extramedullary environments.

This has great implications for targeting adhesion factors for therapy, as it suggests that different adhesion factors should either be antagonized or agonized depending on the function of the adhesion factor. According to this assumption, adhesion factors involved in intra- and extravasation adhesion should be antagonized, while adhesion factors involved in BM adhesion – as identified in Chapter 2 – should be agonized. Indeed, Adhesion factors for endothelium were shown to decrease tumour burden in mouse models (Asosingh et al., 2001; Mrozik et al., 2015)

Bou Zerdan et al. (2022): "Classically, the BMM has been divided into endosteal and vascular niches"

Together, a detailed mapping of the niches available in the bone marrow is required to understand

the adhesion factors required for each niche. This is a highly complex task, as the bone marrow is a highly complex organ.

What Triggers Release: One Master Switch, Many Small Switches, or is it just Random?

Papers like Akhmetzyanova et al. (2020) make it seem as if there is one molecule that decides if a myeloma cell is circulating or not.

It's less about one clear (molecular) mechanism that decides that a myeloma cell decides to become a disseminating cell, but rather a indirect consequence of a combination of many processes. These processes are: - Loss of adhesion factors or dynamic expression of adhesion factors - Loss of dependency from bone marrow microenvironment - asdf

Our thesis postulates that there is no big switch that decides if a myeloma cell detaches from the bone marrow, *it simply happens* once these processes are present.

Outlook: High-Value Research Topics for Myeloma Research Arising from this Work

As an Outlook, the Author lists research topics arising from this work that have great potential for breakthroughs in myeloma research.

Anti tumor effects of MSCs: This thesis has discussed the pro-tumor effects of MSCs. However, MSCs have also been shown to have anti-tumor effects (Galderisi et al., 2015). This work has also shown that primary hMSCs can induce apoptosis in INA-6 cells initially – probably through the action of death domain receptors –, but inhibit apoptosis during prolonged culturing.

This shows that hMSCs could be leveraged as a therapeutic target that could prevent myeloma progression.

Cell Division as a Mechanism for Dissemination Initiation: The author describes how the detachment of daughter cells from the mother cell after a cycle of hMSC-(re)attachment and proliferation could be a key mechanism in myeloma dissemination. This mechanism was shown in other studies of extravasation. The author sees great potential in this mechanism as a target for future research. It is probably under-researched due to requirement of sophisticated time-lapse equipment, yet the simplicity of detachment through cell division is intriguing through its simplicity. It implies asymmetric cell division. Cancer cells are known to divide asymmetrically, e.g. moving miRNAs to one daughter cell.

Lists of Adhesion Gene Associated With Prolonged Patient Survival: The author lists adhesion genes that are associated with prolonged patient survival. These genes are highly expressed in myeloma samples from patients with longer overall

At this time we could be on the verge of a new era of myeloma therapy, including bi-specific antibodies and cell based approaches (Morè et al., 2023; Engelhardt et al., 2024). Currently, available CAR-T Cell therapies (ide-cel, cilta-cel) are extremely expensive, but show complete remission rates of up to 80 % and a 18-month progression free survival rate of 66 % (Bobin & Leleu, 2022). An affordable “off-the-shelf” CAR-T Cell product could become reality since the problem of deadly graft-versus-host disease during allogeneic transplantation seems to be solvable (Qasim et al., 2017), hence, research groups and biotech companies are racing towards developing a safe allogeneic CAR-T Cell technology (Depil et al., 2020).

the list of genes could be good targets because the BM niche is highly hypoxic, car t cells are not well, but directing them to the BM niche could increase efficacy.

Conclusion 2: Cancer & Myeloma & Dissemination is bad

lorem ipsum yes yes very bad

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- Two new interleukin-6 dependent plasma cell lines carrying a chromosomal abnormality involving the IL-6 gene locus.* Abstract Two plasma cell lines, INA-6 and JK-6, have been initiated and continuously cultured from two patients with malignant plasma cell diseases. Both cell lines are EBNA negative and show morphological and immunophenotypical features of plasma cells. INA-6 expresses the CD39 and CDw75 antigens, JK-6 is strongly positive with CD38 and CD39 antibodies. By flow cytometry they were non-reactive with Ia antibodies and B cell reagents CD19, CD20, CD21, CD22, and CD24. While INA-6 cells are releasing kappa light chains only, JK-6 cells produce IgG kappa. Both cell lines could only be initiated with IL-6 supplemented medium and remained IL-6 responsive throughout continuous culture. INA-6 is strictly dependent on IL-6. No spontaneously secreted IL-6 was found nor could it be induced by IL-1beta /TNFalpha stimulation. Molecular analysis with RT-PCR revealed mRNA for the IL-6 receptor in both lines. No IL-6 mRNA was detectable in INA-6 cells, while in JK-6 minute amounts were observed. Cytogenetic analysis of both lines revealed, among other abnormalities, a deletion (7)(p13). Interestingly, the 7p deletion affects the location of the IL-6 gene. In both cell lines, IL-6 dependent proliferation could be inhibited by IFNalpha. IFNalpha had growth regulatory effects only on JK-6: While high concentrations were inhibitory, low IFNalpha amounts were clearly stimulatory. A wide variety of other cytokines including GM-CSF and IL-11 did not have the capacity to influence proliferation. These plasma cell lines do not only allow to further characterize regulatory events in plasma cell neoplasias but also provide tools to study therapeutic interventions. (n.d.). Retrieved 2023-03-22, from <https://www.cellosaurus.org/cellopub/CLPUB00060>
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Appendices

A Supplementary Data & Methods

A.1 Figures

A.2 Tables

A.3 Materials & Methods

B Documentation of plotastic