



# Antibody Mediated Ligation of Platelet/Endothelial Cell Adhesion Molecule-1 (PECAM-1) on Neutrophils Enhances Adhesion to Cultured Human Dermal Microvascular Endothelia...

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**ANTIBODY MEDIATED LIGATION OF PLATELET / ENDOTHELIAL  
CELL ADHESION MOLECULE-1 (PECAM-1) ON NEUTROPHILS  
ENHANCES ADHESION TO CULTURED HUMAN DERMAL MICROVASCULAR  
ENDOTHELIAL CELLS**

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**INDEXING WORDS**

platelet / endothelial cell adhesion molecule-1(PECAM-1); neutrophil; DMvE cells

**SYNOPSIS**

We investigated the effects on leukocyte adhesion to cultured human dermal microvascular endothelial (DMvE) cell by antibody mediated ligation of platelet / endothelial cell adhesion molecule-1 (PECAM-1) on neutrophils. Preincubation of neutrophils with anti-PECAM-1 antibody markedly enhanced their adhesion to DMvE cells, while the adhesion-increasing action was cancelled out by anti-CR3 or anti-LFA-1 $\beta$ (CD18) antibody. These findings suggest that ligation of PECAM-1 on neutrophils increases their adhesion to cultured DMvE cells depending on the  $\beta$ 2 integrin family, and PECAM-1 may have a crucial role in dermal inflammation.

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## INTRODUCTION

Expression of certain adhesion molecules is essential for leukocyte movement in inflammatory lesions. PECAM-1 (platelet / endothelial cell adhesion molecule-1), one of recently characterized cell adhesion molecules, belongs to the immunoglobulin gene superfamily and is identical to the hcr 7 and CD 31 antigens. It exists on the surface of platelets, monocytes, neutrophils, some T cell subsets, and the intercellular junctions of cultured endothelial cells.<sup>13)15)</sup>

Antibody mediated ligation of adhesion molecules is believed to deliver the signal for engagement of the natural ligand, and recently, Berman and Muller<sup>5)</sup> reported that the ligation of PECAM-1, using anti-PECAM-1 monoclonal antibody, on monocytes and neutrophils increases the binding capacity of leukocyte CR3 (CD11b / CD18, also known as Mac-1, a member of the  $\beta 2$  integrin family), and that anti-PECAM-1 treated monocytes increase the adhesion to human cultured umbilical vein endothelial cells. The  $\beta 2$  integrin family includes LFA-1(CD11a / CD18) and p150,95 (CD11c / CD18) as well as CR3, and these have a common  $\beta$  subunit.<sup>16)</sup> The enhancement of cell adhesion to the endothelium by the  $\beta 2$  integrin family is well known<sup>3)</sup> and the family also plays an important role in general leukocyte functions such as phagocytosis and chemotaxis.<sup>7)</sup> In fact, inherited deficiency of  $\beta 2$  integrin compromises the phagocytic and migratory capacities of circulating granulocytes and monocytes, leading to life-threatening bacterial infections.<sup>1)2)</sup>

In the dermatological fields, neutrophils play an important role in the process of acute inflammation or disease. For the emigration of neutrophils from the blood into the dermis, tight adhesion of neutrophils to the dermal endothelium is the prerequisite step, and cytogenetically, cultured human endothelial cells differ significantly between those derived from fetal umbilical cords and those derived from vessels in various other sites.<sup>4)14)</sup> In this experiment, we examined whether the ligation of PECAM-1 on neutrophils, using monoclonal anti-PECAM-1 antibody, enhances the adhesion to dermal microvascular endothelial (DMvE) cells in culture and whether the enhanced action depends on the  $\beta 2$  integrin family. This is the first report on anti-PECAM-1 treated neutrophil adhesion assay using cultured DMvE cells.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### *Separation of neutrophils*

Heparinized peripheral blood from a healthy adult was doubly diluted with PBS and centrifuged on a Monopoly Resolving Medium (Dainippon Pharmaceutical, Osaka, Japan) at

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60g for 30 minutes at 4°C. The centrifugation was continued at 180g for another 30 minutes at 4°C, and the leukocytes layer obtained were rinsed in PBS three times. The concentration of neutrophils was adjusted in 5 % bovine serum albumin (BSA) in RPMI-1640 (Nipro, Osaka, Japan) (BSA-RPMI).

### *Antibodies*

Monoclonal anti-PECAM-1 (R&D Systems, Abingdon, UK, 1:1000), anti-CR3 (CD-11b / CD18) and anti-LFA-1 $\beta$  (CD18) (Dakopatts, Denmark, 1:100 and 1:200, respectively) antibodies were used. The anti-LFA-1 $\beta$  (CD18) antibody inhibits lymphocyte and granulocyte functions which are dependent on CD18.<sup>10)</sup>

### *Adhesion of neutrophils to human dermal microvascular endothelial (DMvE) cells*

DMvE cells from neonatal donors (Cell system, Kirkland, WA) were cultured into a monolayer on the collagen gel of a slide glass before the experiment. Conditions were 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> and chamber size 1.1 cm x 0.7 cm (Heraeus Biotechnology, Germany). 150  $\mu$ l neutrophils of  $1.5 \times 10^6$  / well in BSA-RPMI were preincubated with or without monoclonal antibodies at 37°C for 5 minutes and then added to the DMvE cells. These materials were incubated under the conditions of 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 15 minutes, rinsed well in BSA-RPMI, fixed in 1 % glutaraldehyde for 2 hours, and stained with hematoxylin-eosin for microscopic observation. The number of neutrophils in contact with DMvE cells was counted. The neutrophils migrating through the endothelial monolayer were determined using the following points. When the neutrophils adhering to the upper surface of the monolayer came into focus by microscope, those beneath the endothelial cells were out of focus. Moreover, neutrophils migrating through the monolayer became quite flattened between the monolayer and the substratum.<sup>17)</sup> Each experiment was performed in triplicate.

### *Transmission electronmicroscopical observations*

The adherence of anti-PECAM-1 treated neutrophils to DMvE cells was electronmicroscopically observed. The fixed material in 2.5% glutaraldehyde was post-fixed in 1% osmium tetroxide for 1 hour, dehydrated through a graded ethanol series, embedded by inverting a Beem Capsule full of Epok 812 over each chamber section, and polymerized. After removing a block containing tissue sections by brief heating, ultrathin sections were cut, stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate, and observed with a Hitachi- H600 electron microscope.

### **Statistical significance**

Adhering neutrophils to 50 DMvE cells were counted in each experiment. Statistical significance was evaluated by Student's *t* test.

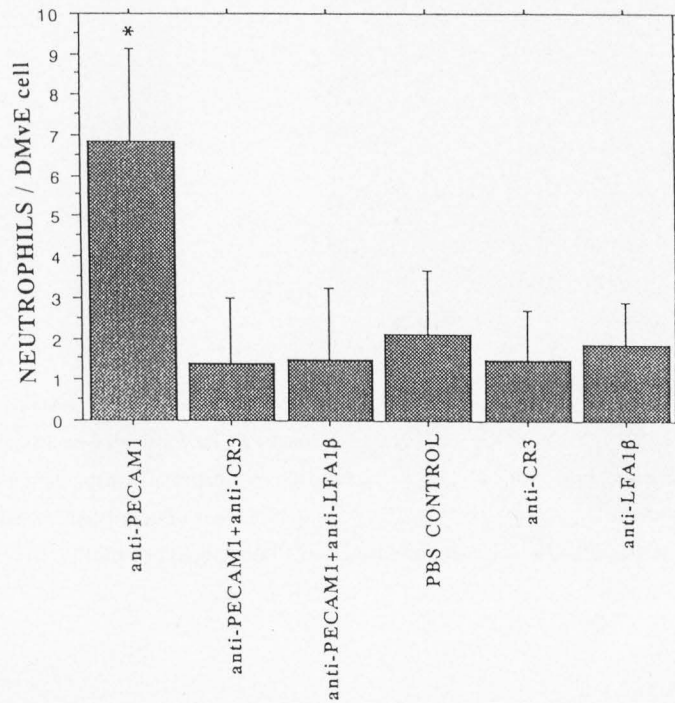
## **RESULTS**

Fig.1. shows the mean number of neutrophils adhering to one DMvE cell. The number of adhered anti-PECAM-1 treated neutrophil to DMvE cells was markedly greater than that treated by PBS ( $P < 0.01$ )(Fig.1). The anti-PECAM-1 treated neutrophils were bound to the upper surface of the DMvE cells or adjoining periphery, but were very rarely present on the under surface. Electronmicroscopically, the cultured cells had eccentrically arranged nuclei with one or two distinct nucleoli, and the cytoplasm contained a large number of mitochondria and vacuoles. In these respects, they resembled the DMvE cells (8). Anti-PECAM-1 treated neutrophils adhered to the surface of endothelium extending their pseudopodia (Fig.2). All of these light and electron-microscopical findings were similar to those for the anti-PECAM-1 treated leukocytes adhering to the apical surface of the umbilical vein endothelium (11). Approximately 80% of the adhesion could be blocked by anti-CR3 or anti-LFA-1 $\beta$ (CD18) (Fig.1&3).

## **DISCUSSION**

Inflammatory cell accumulation into the dermis from the blood vessel involves rolling, tight adhesion and transendothelial migration. Each step is mediated by a distinct family of cell adhesion molecules, and tight adhesion to the endothelium is prerequisite. PECAM-1 has a distinct role in the transendothelial migration phase of leukocytes.<sup>11)</sup> In fact, concentrated PECAM-1 is present throughout the endothelial junction and anti-PECAM-1 antibody blocks transendothelial migration of both monocytes and neutrophils. Interactions of PECAM-1 both on leukocytes and the endothelium are essential for the transendothelial migration. On the other hand, PECAM-1 is not directly related to the adhesion events on the endothelium, since anti-PECAM-1 antibody does not block adhesion to the endothelium.<sup>11)</sup> In our experiment, anti-PECAM-1 treated neutrophils enhanced the adherence above or adjoining the DMvE cells by extending their pseudopodia. This morphological change of neutrophils was the same as that of leukocytes adhering to the apical surface of umbilical vein endothelium.<sup>11)</sup> The enhancement of adherence was cancelled out by anti-CR3 or anti-LFA-1 $\beta$ (CD18) antibody, suggesting that PECAM-1 mediated adherence to the DMvE cells depends on the  $\beta 2$  integrin. Berman *et al.* <sup>5)</sup>

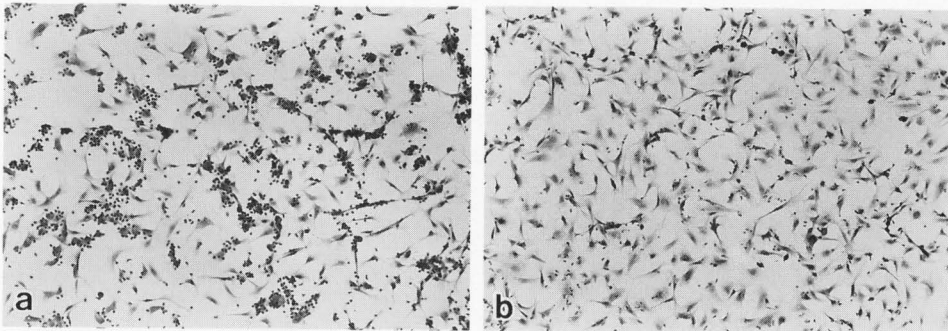
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**Figure 1.** The mean number of neutrophils adhering to one DMvE cell. Bar shows SD. Anti-PECAM-1 treated neutrophils markedly enhance the adherence to DMvE cells (\* $P < 0.01$  is significant difference compared with PBS control), and this enhancement is cancelled out by anti-CR3 or anti-LFA-1 $\beta$ (CD18) (significant differences compared with only anti-PECAM-1-treated neutrophils).



**Figure 2.** Electronmicroscopy shows that anti-PECAM-1 treated neutrophils adhere to the endothelium by extending a pseudopod (N: nucleus of neutrophil, P: pseudopod, E; DMvE cell) (x3,000).



**Figure 3.** (a) Many anti-PECAM-1 treated neutrophils are adhered to the DMvE cells. (b) The enhanced adherence is blocked by anti-CR3 antibody.

reported that anti PECAM-1 treated neutrophils increase the CR3 activity on neutrophils by rosetting assay of erythrocytes. CR3 is a member of the  $\beta 2$  integrin family (CD18) with LFA-1 and p150,95, and they cooperate for adherence to the endothelial cells through a counter-receptor for ICAM-1 on the endothelium.<sup>6,9)</sup> This neutrophil-endothelium adhesion mediated by  $\beta 2$  integrin is a tight adhesion. We conclude here that the ligation of PECAM-1 on neutrophils to enhance its adhesion to the apical surface of dermal microvascular endothelium depends on the  $\beta 2$  integrin.

Neutrophils play an important role in the process of acute inflammation or disease, secreting cytokines such as  $\text{TNF-}\alpha^{18)}$  and enzymes such as proteinases,<sup>12)</sup> and phagocytosing microorganisms. The  $\beta 2$  integrin enhances the phagocytic activity, as well as the adherence to the endothelium<sup>7)</sup>. Ligation of PECAM-1 on neutrophils may play an important role for phagocytosis in the dermal matrix, as well as for adherence to the endothelium of dermal microvessels. In the process of dermatological inflammation or disease, PECAM-1 seems to play a critical role in the accumulation and phagocytic activity of neutrophils.

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