

# In Vitro Interactions Between Rabbit Alveolar Macrophages and *Pasteurella tularensis*<sup>1</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

NUTTER, J. E. (Fort Detrick, Frederick, Md.), AND Q. N. MYRVIK. In vitro interactions between rabbit alveolar macrophages and *Pasteurella tularensis*. J. Bacteriol. 92:645-651. 1966.—Rabbit alveolar macrophages were successfully employed in a study of host cell-*Pasteurella tularensis* interactions in vitro. Under cell culture conditions in which inhibitory antibiotics were not employed and small infection ratios were used, the relative in vivo virulence of two strains of *P. tularensis* was duplicated. As a consequence of intracellular multiplication, normal macrophages were killed in relation to the virulence of the strain employed. Alveolar macrophages were also collected from immune rabbits, and macrophage mortality and bacterial growth were significantly suppressed below levels observed with normal macrophage preparations. The effect of immune serum could only be ascribed a minor role in the observed reactions. A marked intravenous toxicity of *P. tularensis* for the rabbit was observed with both virulent and attenuated strains. The toxicity was possessed only by viable preparations and could be elicited in animals immune to virulent challenge.

The results of several investigations demonstrated that classical circulating antibody plays at best only a minor role in the mechanisms of acquired resistance to *Pasteurella tularensis* (3, 7, 16, 18, 19). It is necessary, therefore, to ascribe major importance to cell-associated factors when considering the mechanism of immunity to tularemia.

It was reported that peritoneal macrophages obtained from immune white rats have an enhanced ability to ingest *P. tularensis* in comparison with phagocytes obtained from normal animals. In addition, the immune macrophage system exerts a bacteriostatic effect on the intracellular organisms (McElree and Downs, Bacteriol. Proc., p. 136, 1961). Similar findings were reported with rabbit and guinea pig macrophages (18, 19).

Additional evidence for the active participation of macrophages in the immune response was obtained in passive transfer studies (1, 22; Thorpe and Marcus, Bacteriol. Proc., p. 51, 1965). These studies demonstrated the capacity of macrophages obtained from immune animals

to confer on normal recipients increased resistance to challenge. The immunity possessed by recipients was proportional to the number of immune cells they received but was not correlated with the administration of immune serum. In addition, transfers made between inbred animals resulted in a longer lasting immunity than those made between genetically dissimilar individuals (1).

The potential problems associated with irritant-induced cells are exemplified by the work of investigators who demonstrated that, when irritants were employed to stimulate rat peritoneal exudates, the results obtained after infection of these cells varied with the different eliciting agents (12). Similar results were obtained with other experimental models (6, 10).

Pulmonary alveolar macrophages can be procured without an eliciting substance, and thereby represent a population of phagocytic cells that closely approximate the normal in vivo physiological state (14). The respiratory route has been utilized extensively for tularemic challenge, and, in addition, this route has been employed successfully as a means of vaccinating monkeys and man (5, 20, 21). The respiratory bronchioles were the primary sites of lodgment in the lungs of monkeys, where the bacteria were

<sup>1</sup> From a dissertation submitted by J. E. Nutter in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Ph.D. degree to the Department of Microbiology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

shown to be within macrophages. Therefore, an opportunity existed for the study of the early stages of pulmonary tularemia infection.

The objectives of this study were to develop an in vitro model for studying intracellular infections and to determine by this means any differences in the response of macrophages from susceptible and immune hosts to *P. tularensis*.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Experimental animals.** New Zealand white rabbits, weighing between 1.8 and 2.5 kg, were used throughout the investigation.

**Technique for procuring alveolar macrophages.** Rabbits were sacrificed by an air embolus or with an overdose of Pentothal sodium. The thoracic cavity was opened, the upper part of the trachea was clamped shut with a hemostat, and the lungs were insufflated with four 25-ml portions of Hanks' balanced salt solution (BSS). BSS was introduced and withdrawn with a syringe and needle after puncture of the tracheal wall. The procedure described by Myrvik (14) was also employed with one modification, namely, the addition of 100 units of penicillin per ml of BSS.

**Vital staining.** The viability of macrophages was determined by employing a trypan blue exclusion technique. For the test, 0.2 ml of a macrophage suspension in the culture medium was mixed with 0.1 ml of 0.5% trypan blue. Macrophage suspensions were examined within 15 min as "wet mounts" in a standard hemacytometer, and cells that excluded the dye were considered viable.

**Tissue culture.** Medium 199 (pH 7.2 to 7.4) with 100 units of penicillin per ml and 20% pooled rabbit serum was employed for maintenance of macrophages. Samples (2 ml) of suspensions containing  $2 \times 10^6$  macrophages per milliliter were distributed into screw-cap test tubes (25 mm in diameter) and incubated at 36 C in an atmosphere of 5% CO<sub>2</sub> in air.

**Bacterial strains employed.** Strain SCHU S4 of *P. tularensis* is a fully virulent North American strain with a dermal LD<sub>50</sub> for mice, guinea pigs, and rabbits of fewer than 10 organisms. The live vaccine strain (LVS) is a stable colonial variant derived from a heterogeneous Soviet vaccine strain and serially passed in white mice to increase its virulence and immunogenicity (4). SCHU S1-11 is an attenuated strain similar in many characteristics to LVS but more virulent for the guinea pig.

**Bacterial cultivation.** Liquid cultures were prepared in peptone-cysteine broth (PCB) as described by Snyder et al. (17). Inocula for the PCB cultures consisted of 5% (v/v) of a culture grown in a modified casein hydrolysate medium similar to that described by Mills et al. (Bacteriol. Proc., p. 37, 1949). PCB cultures were incubated at 37 C for 12 to 16 hr with agitation. Cultures were also prepared on glucose-cysteine-blood-agar (GCBA) with incubation for 12 to 16 hr at 37 C in screw-cap tubes. GCBA was prepared from a dehydrated medium obtained from BBL. Organisms were suspended in gel-saline diluent (0.85% sodium chloride and 0.1% gelatin) and adjusted to the desired concentration turbidimetrically.

Stock cultures maintained on GCBA were stored at 5 C and transferred every 4 weeks.

**Bacterial enumeration.** Numbers of viable *P. tularensis* cells in macrophage suspensions and cultures were estimated by cultivation of appropriate dilutions on GCBA medium. Dilutions were prepared in gel-saline diluent, and 0.1- to 0.2-ml portions were spread over the surface of the medium with a separate sterile glass rod for each plate. Replicate plates were prepared for each dilution, and viable counts were estimated from the average number of colonies after 72 to 96 hr of incubation at 37 C. Preliminary trials indicated that those techniques which were sufficiently rigorous to disrupt alveolar macrophages also markedly reduced the viable numbers of *P. tularensis* added to the suspensions. When estimating the numbers of *P. tularensis*, the macrophage suspensions were diluted and cultured without further treatment. Accordingly, the numbers of viable *P. tularensis* reported were less than the total number, since some macrophages probably contained more than one organism.

**Macrophage infection.** Bacterial suspensions were diluted with medium 199 to contain the desired number of bacteria in the 0.1-ml inoculum routinely employed for each tube.

**Vaccination with live tularemia vaccine (LVS).** Rabbits were vaccinated with 10<sup>6</sup> or 10<sup>9</sup> viable cells of LVS, by means of a single subcutaneous injection in the flank of the animal, with the organisms contained in 0.2 ml of gel-saline diluent. Animals were also vaccinated by placing a drop of a suspension containing 10<sup>9</sup> viable LVS cells per milliliter on the flank and utilizing the percutaneous technique of multiple dermal injections, as employed in vaccinia immunization.

**Immunization technique employing strain SCHU S4.** Rabbits were infected by the subcutaneous route with 10<sup>6</sup> cells of strain SCHU S4. The infection was allowed to proceed until the rabbits had been febrile (>103 F; 39.4 C) for 24 hr. At that time, usually 4 days after infection, the animals each received a daily dose of 200 mg of streptomycin sulfate intramuscularly on 5 successive days, followed by 100 mg daily for 5 additional days.

**Serology.** Rabbits were bled from the marginal ear vein or by cardiac puncture at the time of sacrifice, and agglutinin tests were performed with the sera according to the technique of Brigham (2). Agglutinin titers were converted to logarithms to the base 2, and average values for the groups were calculated.

**Challenge.** Animals were challenged with 10<sup>6</sup> cells of SCHU S4 by the subcutaneous route and observed daily for 30 days; survival intervals were recorded.

#### RESULTS

**Quality of macrophages.** The sources of rabbits were carefully screened to avoid colonies with a high incidence of chronic pulmonary infections due to members of the genus *Bordetella* (8). More than 95% of macrophages collected from acceptable rabbits were viable, and uninfected control cultures survived in cell culture for up to 7 days.

**Effect of streptomycin.** During early studies to determine the feasibility of employing alveolar macrophages to investigate *P. tularensis* infections in vitro, both penicillin and streptomycin were included in the tissue culture medium. At a ratio of 10 bacteria per macrophage, the findings were the same as those with noninfected control cultures, indicating an inhibitory action of the antibiotics. The results of further experiments are presented in Fig. 1. Normal macrophages were infected at a ratio of 1:1 with strain SCHU S4, and 2 hr later streptomycin was added so that the concentrations indicated were achieved. Concentrations of 100, 50, and 10  $\mu\text{g}$  of streptomycin per ml were lethal at both 24 and 48 hr, but 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  gave equivocal results. In addition, comparable results were obtained when experiments were performed with LVS. The inhibitory effect of streptomycin on intracellular *P. tularensis* was further evidenced by a decreased percentage of dead macrophages at the sampling intervals, reflecting the reduction in bacterial growth within the macrophages.

Subsequent experiments were performed with only penicillin added to the culture medium. As anticipated, penicillin did not affect the intracellular growth of *P. tularensis* in alveolar macrophages.

**Response of normal alveolar macrophages to infection.** The mortality response of alveolar macrophages after infection with 8 to 14 organisms per alveolar macrophage is shown in Fig. 2. Each point indicates the mean value of replicate experiments and, at the 36- and 48-hr sampling times, the range of one standard deviation is presented. At 36 hr, 77% of the macrophages infected with fully virulent organisms were

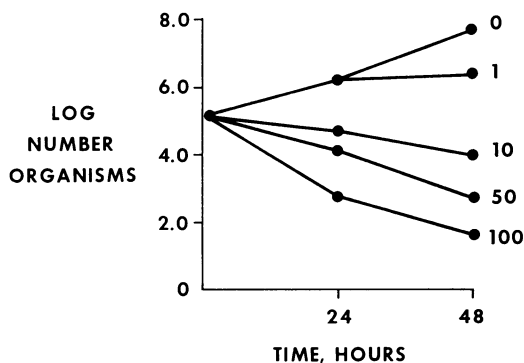


FIG. 1. Effect of various concentrations of streptomycin on the intracellular viability of streptomycin-sensitive *Pasteurella tularensis*. Streptomycin was added to the culture medium 2 hr after alveolar macrophages were infected at a ratio of one bacterium per macrophage. Numbers at the right indicate the micrograms of streptomycin per milliliter of culture medium.

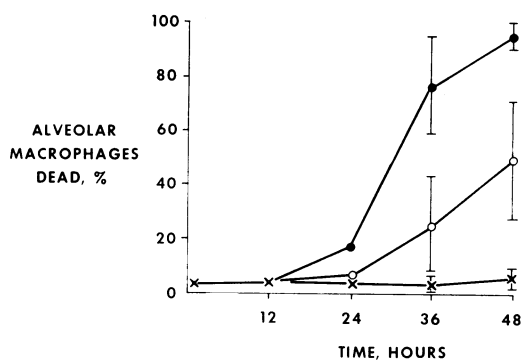


FIG. 2. In vitro mortality response of alveolar macrophages after infection with *Pasteurella tularensis*. Virulent strain SCHU S4; ●, live vaccine strain LVS; ○, uninfected control, ×.

nonviable. Those cells infected with LVS exhibited a 25% mortality, but uninfected control cultures exhibited only a 3% mortality. Similar ratios were observed at 48 hr; however, the percentage of nonviable macrophages had increased. The presence of viable bacteria was required for the induction of the macrophage mortality response. Preparations containing heat-killed SCHU S4 produced no increase in mortality over that present in uninfected control cultures. The mortality response of normal alveolar macrophages, infected in vitro, reflected the response generally observed in the intact animal. Fully virulent strains of *P. tularensis* repeatedly caused the death of a greater percentage of alveolar macrophages than that caused by the attenuated live vaccine strain at comparable intervals.

**Immunization studies.** The mortality response of rabbits vaccinated with LVS and subsequently challenged with strain SCHU S4 is presented in Table 1. The administration of LVS by either the percutaneous or subcutaneous route failed to engender significant protection against a subcutaneous SCHU S4 challenge. Although a slight increase in the survival time of the vaccinated groups was evident, all vaccinated animals succumbed to an acute progressive infection not unlike that seen in control animals. Table 1 also contains the results of immunizing rabbits by the SCHU S4-streptomycin treatment technique. All rabbits that had recovered from a previous virulent infection with the aid of streptomycin therapy survived the challenge with strain SCHU S4. The immunity produced by the SCHU S4-streptomycin procedure persisted for at least 120 days, and was demonstrated in other studies when the animals were challenged with SCHU S4 contained in a small-particle aerosol.

Highest agglutinin titers were observed 2 weeks after initiation of the infection among SCHU

TABLE 1. Mortality response of vaccinated rabbits after subcutaneous challenge with *Pasteurella tularensis* SCHU S4

Vaccination procedure	No. dead	Avg day of death (range)
	no. challenged <sup>a</sup>	
10 <sup>9</sup> LVS percutaneously....	5/5	8.6 (6-12)
10 <sup>9</sup> LVS subcutaneously....	5/5	8.2 (6-10)
10 <sup>6</sup> LVS subcutaneously....	5/5	7.6 (7-9)
SCHU S4-streptomycin 30 days prior to challenge..	0/5	—
SCHU S4-streptomycin 120 days prior to challenge..	0/5	—
Nonvaccinated.....	10/10	5.6 (4-8)

<sup>a</sup> Challenge dose, 10<sup>8</sup> organisms.

S4-streptomycin treated animals, with an average peak titer of 1:1,280. Subcutaneous vaccination with 10<sup>6</sup> LVS cells caused only a minimal agglutinin response with an average peak titer of 1:7. Vaccination with 10<sup>9</sup> viable LVS organisms by the subcutaneous route or by the percutaneous technique produced average peak titers of 1:416 and 1:120, respectively, 1 week after vaccination.

One possible reason for the failure of LVS to immunize by the routes employed could be the inability to become disseminated from the original sites. A technique employed for overcoming this was the intravenous injection of large numbers of bacteria; results obtained with this technique are presented in Table 2. The injection of 10<sup>10</sup> to 10<sup>11</sup> viable attenuated organisms consistently caused rapid death of the rabbits. When 10<sup>9</sup> viable organisms of the virulent SCHU S4 strain were injected and streptomycin therapy was started 2 hr later, death resulted but was somewhat delayed. Injection of 10<sup>9</sup> viable LVS cells followed by streptomycin therapy did not result in the death of any of the test animals. When cells of the virulent strain were killed by formalin, their lethal action was abolished, even when the dose was increased to 10 times the LD<sub>100</sub> of living organisms.

It was impossible to immunize rabbits by the intravenous injection of large numbers of attenuated organisms because of the lethal nature of this procedure. The precise mechanism of this rapid death is unknown. At necropsy, pathological findings consisted of extensive diffuse hemorrhagic lesions in the lungs and thymus gland. Microscopically, evidence of extravasated erythrocytes was also observed throughout most of the other tissues. Collectively, these observations suggest that the primary damage was localized in the vascular endothelium.

*In vitro* infection studies. Experiments were

TABLE 2. Intravenous toxicity of *Pasteurella tularensis* preparations for the rabbit

Prep.	No. dead/ no. treated	Avg time of death
		hr
10 <sup>10</sup> viable LVS.....	5/6	9
10 <sup>11</sup> viable LVS.....	5/5	10
10 <sup>11</sup> viable SCHU S1-11.....	5/5	12
10 <sup>9</sup> viable SCHU S4 with streptomycin therapy.....	5/5	24
10 <sup>9</sup> viable LVS with streptomycin therapy.....	0/5	—
10 <sup>10</sup> formalin-treated SCHU S4.....	0/2	—
10 <sup>11</sup> formalin-treated SCHU S4.....	0/2	—
10 <sup>10</sup> viable LVS injected into immune animals.....	6/7	10

performed in which the bacteria-macrophage ratios were varied to increase the sensitivity of the assay system for detecting cellular immunity to *P. tularensis*. Macrophages were infected at five ratios, ranging from 100 bacteria per macrophage to 1 bacterium per 100 macrophages, and the viability of the macrophages was determined daily for 3 days. The mortality response of the macrophages (percentage dead plotted against time) was proportional to the multiplicity of infection. Macrophage mortality was greater with the virulent organisms, but the response was still proportional to the bacteria-macrophage ratio. The relative virulence of LVS and SCHU S4 was readily discernible. The approximate ratios (bacteria-macrophage) required to kill 50% of the macrophages at 48 hr was 1:1 for LVS and only 1:10 for the virulent SCHU S4. When normal macrophages were infected with either the attenuated or virulent strain, maximal separation of values in response to the different ratios occurred 48 hr after infection.

When immune (SCHU S4-streptomycin) rabbits were used as a source of macrophages, the results of *in vitro* infections were markedly different. At 48 hr after infection, the initial LVS-macrophage ratio of 10:1 had produced a mortality of 62% of the immune macrophages compared with 90% in normal macrophages. Immune macrophages were almost completely resistant to LVS for 72 hr when 1:1 and 1:10 ratios were employed. In contrast, these ratios produced a mortality of 70 to 90% in normal macrophages at that time. Similar results were obtained with the virulent SCHU S4 organisms, although the degree of suppression was not as marked.

An inhibitory action of alveolar macrophages from immune rabbits on the intracellular growth of *P. tularensis* was also demonstrated. The interaction of normal and immune macrophages with LVS and strain SCHU S4, each at two multiplicities, is shown in Fig. 3 and 4. The figures contain the range of values as well as mean values for both macrophage mortality and viable bacterial counts. Infected immune suspensions consistently had fewer dead macrophages at 48 hr than did comparable populations of normal macrophages. The effectiveness of immune macrophages was also demonstrated by the differential in viable organisms present in the immune and normal macrophage cultures. Viable counts in the immune macrophage cultures were always 2 to 4 logs below those in normal macrophage cultures.

**Role of immune serum.** When serum-medium 199 mixtures were inoculated with SCHU S4, the organisms multiplied slightly (<1 log) during the 48-hr observation period when either normal or immune serum was employed. In contrast, similar experiments with LVS showed that the viable count of this strain decreased approximately 1 log during the same period in the presence of either normal or immune serum. These results indicate that immune serum did not exhibit enhanced bactericidal properties in com-

parison with normal serum. On the other hand, 20% serum in tissue culture medium 199 did not supply the cultural conditions necessary for optimal growth of either strain.

Experiments were also performed in which normal macrophages were suspended in medium 199 with immune serum, and immune macrophages were suspended in medium 199 with normal serum. Results of an experiment with LVS (Table 3) indicate that normal macrophages in concert with immune serum may be able to reduce the viable bacterial count. However, the reduction is less than that observed with immune macrophages suspended in immune serum and cannot account for the cellular immunity observed in this study. Immune macrophages suspended in normal serum were as active as the fully immune system, i.e., both macrophages and serum from SCHU S4-streptomycin treated rabbits.

#### DISCUSSION

The events that occur during the early stages of infection are difficult to study in the intact animal because the mass of the infecting organisms is usually relatively small. These events, however, probably determine whether the infecting agent can become established and cause overt disease. The availability of alveolar macrophages has provided an opportunity to study *P. tularensis*-macrophage relationships in vitro, simulating at least in part the in vivo conditions during the early postphagocytic period following aerosol challenge.

The observation that low levels of streptomycin were effective in inhibiting intracellular growth of *P. tularensis* in alveolar macrophages maintained in tissue culture is not in agreement with several reports in the literature and with usual experimental methods. However, when comparing the results from various laboratories, consideration must be given to the type of host cell and conditions employed. The increasing body of information on differences in physiological behavior even between different mononuclear phagocytic cells from the same animal makes this imperative. Extrapolation of results obtained by other investigators using established cell lines grown in serial culture to the conditions existing in alveolar macrophages is difficult and not necessarily valid. In this regard, Thorpe and Marcus (19) employed rabbit alveolar macrophages in a study of *P. tularensis* infections in vitro which closely approximated the study reported in this communication. However, their data indicated that no appreciable multiplication of their most virulent strain occurred in normal alveolar macrophages suspended in a system

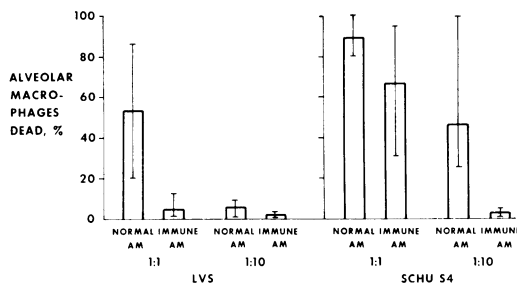


FIG. 3. Alveolar macrophage mortality 48 hr after in vitro infection with two strains of *Pasteurella tularensis* each at a ratio of two bacteria per macrophage.

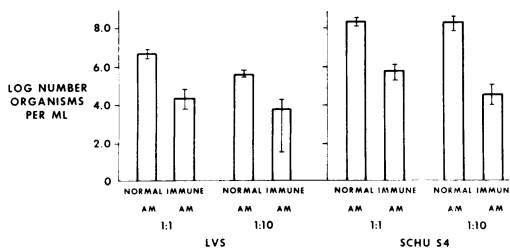


FIG. 4. Viable numbers of two strains of *Pasteurella tularensis* 48 hr after in vitro infection of alveolar macrophages at a ratio of two bacteria per macrophage.

TABLE 3. *Effect of different macrophage-serum combinations on the growth of Pasteurella tularensis LVS*

Type of macrophage	Type of serum	Organisms per ml at 48 hr <sup>a</sup>
Normal	Normal	$1.8 \times 10^5$
Normal	Immune	$7.5 \times 10^4$
Immune	Immune	$1.8 \times 10^3$
Immune	Normal	$3.8 \times 10^3$

<sup>a</sup> Initial number of organisms was  $2.0 \times 10^4$

containing homologous serum and streptomycin. However, they washed their cells before releasing the bacteria from the macrophages, which presumably removed extracellular organisms which had escaped from ruptured macrophages. Furthermore, if organisms broke out into the extracellular environment, they would face the full concentration of streptomycin which could have killed *P. tularensis*.

In our studies, the virulent strain SCHU S4 increased at least 100-fold under comparable conditions but without streptomycin. Since the tissue culture medium employed did not support the growth of the SCHU S4 strain, this increase is most probably the result of intracellular multiplication. Observations by phase microscopy have confirmed a marked intracellular multiplication of *P. tularensis* in normal rabbit alveolar macrophages (*unpublished data*). In this regard, it would be reasonable to expect that the highly virulent SCHU S4 strain can multiply within normal macrophages obtained from this highly susceptible host. Tularemia is classically an intracellular infection, and, for the drug to produce its rapid and profound effect in this disease, some of it must enter the cells that harbor organisms. Indeed, it is not surprising that streptomycin can enter metabolically stimulated alveolar macrophages. Normally, they are carrying out active pinocytosis and phagocytosis which would allow extracellular components to enter nonspecifically the intracellular milieu. The findings of Hunt and Myrvik (9) that alveolar macrophages can take up appreciable quantities of preformed antibody illustrate that active uptake of even large protein molecules is apparently a normal process, thus strengthening our viewpoint. Since our observations indicated that *P. tularensis* failed to multiply significantly in the cell-free culture fluid, the incorporation of streptomycin to inhibit extracellular growth was unnecessary.

The observation that live tularemia vaccine failed to immunize rabbits against challenge with fully virulent *P. tularensis* is in marked contrast to the results obtained with other animals. The

mouse and guinea pig (4) and the monkey (Eigelsbach et al., *Bacteriol. Proc.*, p. 87, 1959), as well as man (11, 15, 16), have responded to LVS vaccination with a high level of immunity. It was shown in the present investigation that rabbits were capable of developing immunity to tularemic challenge, provided that they were infected with virulent organisms and then cured with streptomycin. Although LVS-vaccinated rabbits were not appreciably more resistant to challenge than nonvaccinated animals, they did produce agglutinins. The production of antibody without development of significant resistance to challenge is comparable to the course of events in other species after vaccination with killed tularemia vaccines.

During attempts to immunize rabbits with large numbers of *P. tularensis*, a marked systemic toxicity was encountered. Moody and Downs (13) referred to this phenomenon in a study of the immunogenicity of various strains for the white mouse. They found that, when mice were injected with living suspensions, the majority of animals succumbed within 48 hr. In contrast, killed preparations failed to elicit the response, and the toxicity resembled a rickettsial toxemia. We also found that killed suspensions failed to elicit toxic death. The observation that *P. tularensis* is capable of producing lethal toxic reactions in the rabbit initially suggested that acquired immunity might involve antitoxic mechanisms. However, immunized rabbits were just as susceptible as normal rabbits to the toxic properties of viable suspensions. Clearly, these data rule out antitoxic immunity as a dominant factor in acquired immunity to tularemia.

The data indicated that the mortality response of infected normal alveolar macrophages was proportional to the *in vivo* virulence of the strain of *P. tularensis* employed. Immune macrophages exhibited a lower mortality than normal macrophages when infected with either attenuated or fully virulent organisms. The validity of employing a decrease in macrophage mortality as a parameter of acquired immunity is supported by the evidence which demonstrated an inhibition of bacterial growth by immune macrophages. Pulmonary alveolar macrophages collected from immune rabbits were more effective in suppressing the growth of *P. tularensis* than were equivalent numbers of normal macrophages. These observations established that acquired immunity to tularemia can be demonstrated *in vitro* by use of alveolar macrophages maintained in a tissue culture system.

It was observed that immunity to *P. tularensis*, demonstrated *in vivo*, had no demonstrable antitoxic component. This same situation existed when macrophages were infected *in vitro*. Neither

strain exerted an immediate toxic effect on normal macrophages but this effect followed intracellular multiplication of the organisms. The expression of immunity by macrophages from immunized animals was dependent on a suppression of intracellular bacterial growth, preventing the intracellular population from exceeding the toxic threshold.

The results of supplying normal macrophages with immune serum yielded the same results in this study as reported by others (18, 19). Our studies showed that normal macrophages in concert with immune serum could limit the growth of LVS. However, the level of immunity was less than that of immune cells with either immune or normal serum. In contrast, immune macrophages suspended in normal serum did not demonstrate a diminution in activity. These results demonstrate the dominant role played by cell-associated factors in immunity to tularemia.

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