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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL





Figure S1. aDC depletion at 48 h p.i. does not alter IAV-specific CD8 T cell proliferation in the lungs. (A and B) Influenza-specific, CD90.2⁺ CL-4 T cells were adoptively transferred to groups of CD90.1⁺ BALB/c mice as in Fig. 1. 24 h later, mice were infected with a sublethal dose of IAV with or without aDC depletion. On days 4 and 5 p.i., mice were sacrificed and proliferation, as measured by Ki67 expression, of adoptively transferred CD90.2⁺ CL-4 T cells was assessed by flow cytometry. (A) Shown are representative isotype (shaded) or Ki67 (continuous line) staining for control, undepleted, and aDC-depleted mice on days 4 and 5 p.i. Data in A and B are representative of three experiments and represent means \pm SEM (n = 3-4 mice/group). (C) Groups of BALB/c mice were IAV infected with or without aDC depletion as in Fig. S1. On days 4 and 5 p.i., mice were sacrificed and proliferation, as measured by Ki67 expression, of tetramer⁺ CD8 T cells was assessed by flow cytometry. Data in C are pooled from two separate experiments and represent means \pm SEM (n = 6 mice/group). (D and E) Mice were infected and aDC depleted as in C; however, groups of aDC-depleted mice were reconstituted with purified pulmonary pDCs (light gray bars) or CD8 α ⁺ DCs (dark gray bars) on day 3 p.i. (i.e., 24 h after depletion). Mice were sacrificed on day 5 p.i. and assessed for IAV-specific CD8 T cell proliferation as in C. (D) Shown are representative isotype (shaded) or Ki67 staining (continuous line) for control undepleted, aDC-depleted, pDC-reconstituted, and CD8 α ⁺ DC-reconstituted groups. Data are gated on CD3⁺CD8⁺tetramer⁺ T cells. Data in E are pooled from two separate experiments and represent means \pm SEM (n = 6 mice/group).

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Figure S2. aDC depletion at 48 h p.i. results in increased apoptosis by virus-specific CD8 T cells. Influenza-specific, CD90.2⁺ CL-4 T cells were adoptively transferred to groups of CD90.2⁺ BALB/c mice as described in Materials and methods. 24 h later, mice were infected with a sublethal dose of IAV with or without aDC depletion as outlined in Fig. S1. On days 4 and 5 p.i., mice were sacrificed and apoptosis, as measured by the presence of active caspase 3/7, of CD90.2⁺ CL-4 T cells was measured by flow cytometry. (A) Representative FACS plots from day 4 and 5 p.i. are gated on CD3⁺CD8⁺ T cells. Data are representative of three separate experiments (n = 3-4 mice/group). Means ± SEM are shown.



Figure S3. Pulmonary pDC- and CD8 α^+ DC-mediated rescue of IAV-specific CD8 T cell responses from aDC-depleted mice requires IL-15 trans-presentation. Influenza-specific, CD90.1⁺ CL-4 T cells were adoptively transferred to groups of CD90.2⁺ BALB/c mice as described in Materials and methods. 24 h later, mice were infected with a sublethal dose of IAV with or without aDC depletion as outlined in Fig. 1. On day 3 p.i., groups of aDC-depleted mice were reconstituted i.n. with 2.5 × 10⁴ purified pulmonary pDCs (light gray bars) or CD8 α^+ DCs (dark gray bars) that were left untreated or blocked in vitro with anti–IL-15R α antibody. On day 6 p.i., the number of pulmonary adoptively transferred, CD90.1⁺ CL-4 CD8 T cells was enumerated by flow cytometry. Data are pooled from two separate experiments and represent means \pm SEM (n = 7-8 mice/group). *, P < 0.05 compared to influenza-only control mice.



Figure S4. Blocking IL-15 or IL-15R α on the surface of pulmonary DC subsets before adoptive transfer ablates pulmonary DC-mediated rescue of IAV-specific CD8 T cell apoptosis in the lungs of aDC-depleted mice. Groups of BALB/c mice were infected with a sublethal dose of IAV with or without aDC depletion as in Fig. 1. On day 3 p.i., groups of aDC-depleted mice were then reconstituted i.n. with 2.5 × 10⁴ purified pulmonary pDCs (light gray bars) or CD8 α + DCs (dark gray bars) that were blocked in vitro with anti-IL-15 (15) or anti-IL-15R α (15R) antibody before adoptive transfer. On day 5 p.i., the lungs were analyzed for the frequency of apoptosis of tetramer+ CD8 T cells. Data are representative of two separate experiments and represent means \pm SEM (n = 3-4 mice/group). *, P ≤ 0.05 relative to influenza virus infection–only controls.



Figure S5. IL-15^{-/-} mice exhibit reduced IAV-specific CD8 T cell numbers in the lungs after IAV infection. Groups of IL-15^{-/-} and wild-type control IL-15^{+/+} C57BL/6 mice were infected with a sublethal dose of IAV. On day 8 p.i., the (A) frequency and (B) number of virus-specific CD8 T cells in the lungs were measured by tetramer (left) or ICS for IFN- γ (right). Representative FACS plots in A are gated on CD3⁺CD8⁺ T cells. Numbers of tetramer⁺ or IFN- γ ⁺ CD8 T cells in the lungs were determined by subtracting background staining using the media control (A, top). Data are representative of two separate experiments and represent means \pm SEM (n = 4-5 mice/group). *, P ≤ 0.05 relative to influenza virus infection-only controls.