

# Relation of the CD11/CD18 Family of Leukocyte Antigens to the Transient Neutropenia Caused by Chemoattractants

By Claes Lundberg and Samuel D. Wright

Adherence of leukocytes to the endothelium is a prerequisite for infiltration and accumulation of cells at an inflammatory site. Recent studies suggest that the CD11/CD18 family of adhesion-promoting receptors plays a crucial role in the initial adherence of polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNs) to endothelium. We have studied the effect of the anti-CD18 monoclonal antibody (MoAb) IB4, on movement of PMN in rabbits. Accumulation of PMNs in the skin induced by a local injection of the chemoattractant, zymosan-activated serum (ZAS), was strongly inhibited, in a dose-dependent fashion, by intravenous injection of IB4. A greater than 95% reduction in PMN accumulation was seen with 1 mg IB4/kg body weight, the highest dose used. PMN-dependent plasma leakage in the ZAS-injected skin sites was also inhibited by pretreatment with MoAb IB4, with a similar dose dependence. Histamine-induced plasma leakage, which is PMN independent, was not affected by

**A**DHERENCE of leukocytes to the endothelium is a prerequisite for extravasation of leukocytes, and enhanced adhesion at sites of inflammation serves in the recruitment of cells to specific sites. Several types of molecules may participate in the enhanced adhesion observed at sites of inflammation. The endothelial molecules ICAM-1 (ref 1) and ELAM-1 (ref 2) serve as adhesins for polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNs) and are strongly induced after 3 hours' exposure of endothelium to cytokines. It is known, however, that PMNs bind endothelium and diapedese within minutes of the introduction of a chemotactic stimulus in tissues,<sup>3</sup> well before the induction of ICAM-1 or ELAM-1. This type of rapid extravasation appears, instead, to depend on the response of PMNs to chemoattractants and on the presence of the CD11/CD18 family of glycoproteins, LFA-1 (CD11a/CD18), CR3 (CD11b/CD18), and p150,95 (CD11c/CD18) on the PMN surface. Stimulation of PMNs with several chemotactic factors causes strong adhesion to unstimulated endothelium *in vitro*,<sup>4</sup> and essentially all the chemoattractant-stimulated adhesion can be inhibited by treating the PMNs with monoclonal antibodies (MoAbs) against the CD11/CD18 complex.<sup>5-8</sup> Further, PMNs from patients with a genetic deficiency in the CD11/CD18 com-

plex (leukocyte adhesion deficiency) fail to bind unstimulated endothelium *in vitro*.<sup>5,8</sup>

We studied the movement of PMNs into the tissue of rabbits in response to local injection of chemoattractants. We found that pretreatment of the rabbits with IB4 or F(ab)<sub>2</sub> fragments of IB4, an MoAb directed against human CD18, blocks movement of PMNs into dermal sites injected with zymosan-activated serum (ZAS). The dose dependence of the blockade and the half-life of the IB4 in circulation were determined. These studies confirm and extend previous reports using different monoclonal anti-CD18 antibodies,<sup>9-11</sup> and define a dosing regimen that strongly blocks CD18 function.

If chemoattractants are injected systemically rather than locally, a striking transient neutropenia results.<sup>12,13</sup> The number of circulating PMNs declines sharply within 5 minutes and returns to normal levels by 30 minutes. This neutropenia is associated with accumulation of PMNs in the lung. The time course of neutropenia corresponds precisely with the time course of enhanced CD11/CD18-dependent binding to endothelium<sup>8</sup> or to C3bi-coated erythrocytes<sup>14</sup> observed *in vitro*, suggesting that the neutropenia may result from CD11/CD18-dependent adhesion of PMNs to the endothelium. We found, however, that blockade of CD11/CD18 with IB4 had no effect on neutropenia caused by formyl-methionyl-leucyl-phenylalanine (fMLF). Mechanisms other than CD11/CD18-dependent adhesion must therefore function to produce this type of neutropenia.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Monoclonal Antibody

The murine anti-CD18 hybridoma cell line IB4<sup>15</sup> was cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's cell culture medium supplemented with 1% fetal calf serum for 11 days. Cross-flow filtration was used to concentrate protein and remove cells and debris. Further purification of the immunoglobulin (Ig) G2a was done by gel filtration (Sephadex G25) and cation exchange (S-Sepharose, Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden). IB4 was finally dissolved in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), pH 7.4. F(ab)<sub>2</sub> fragments were produced by pepsin digestion and purified using anion exchange (Mono Q, Pharmacia, Uppsala,

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Sweden) and gel filtration (Superose 6). Endotoxin levels in the IgG and F(ab)<sub>2</sub> were analyzed using Coatest (KabiVitrum, Stockholm, Sweden) and found to be 1.9 and 0.3 Endotoxin Units (EU)/mg protein, respectively.

#### Animals and Anesthesia

Male New Zealand White rabbits weighing 1.5 to 2.0 kg were used. The animals were anesthetized with Saffan (6 mg/kg body weight IV; Glaxovet Ltd, Harefield, Uxbridge, England) when surgical anesthesia was required. The backs of the animals were shaved 1 day before the experiment when applicable.

#### Inflammatory Skin Lesions

After collecting an arterial blood sample from the central ear artery for hematocrit and leukocyte counting, 5  $\mu$ Ci of <sup>125</sup>I-labeled human serum albumin was given intravenously as a plasma tracer. Physiologic saline, histamine ( $10^{-3}$  mol/L), or ZAS, in a volume of 100  $\mu$ L, was then injected intradermally (ID) in triplicate sites in the dorsal region of the anesthetized animals. Activation of rabbit serum with zymosan (20 mg/mL zymosan, 60 minutes, 37°C) results in approximately 3  $\mu$ g of C5a[desArg]/mL serum.<sup>16</sup> The animals recovered from the anesthesia within 5 minutes and were kept in their cages. The ambient room temperature was kept at 25°C. After a period of 4 hours, the animals were reanesthetized, a blood sample was collected for determination of hematocrit, leukocyte count, and circulating mouse IgG levels, and the rabbits were killed by an overdose of anesthetic. All solutions used for injection into animals were assayed for endotoxin and were found to be lower than 0.02 ng/mL (detection limit of assay).

#### Assay of PMN Infiltration and Plasma Leakage

The injection sites, together with two samples of normal intact skin, were carefully removed, dissected free from fat and muscle tissue, and cut into four smaller pieces. After radioactivity measurements of tissue, blood, and plasma samples were made, the skin lesions were freeze-thawed once, ground in 10 mL 0.05 mol/L phosphate buffer, pH 6.0, containing 0.5% hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide, and myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity was determined in the supernatants. MPO has previously been shown to be a useful and reliable marker enzyme for PMN accumulation *in vivo*,<sup>17</sup> and was therefore used to assess PMN accumulation in the inflammatory skin lesions in this study. The MPO activity was assayed by measuring the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-dependent oxidation of 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine.<sup>18</sup> MPO standards (The Green Cross Corp, Osaka, Japan) were included in each assay, and these results were used to construct a dose-response curve from which the MPO activity of the samples was determined. One unit of MPO activity was defined as the amount of enzyme reducing 1  $\mu$ mol H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/min.<sup>19</sup> Albumin extravasation was calculated from the radioactivity of the tissue and plasma sample and is expressed as microliters of plasma exuded per gram wet weight. Values from each animal represent a mean of values from three injection sites.

#### Experimental Protocols

**Protocol I.** Ten minutes before the intradermal injections, the animals were treated intravenously with IB4 in doses of 0.03 (n = 5), 0.1 (n = 5), 0.3 (n = 5), 1.0 mg/kg body weight (n = 5), or 1 mL saline/kg body weight (controls; n = 5).

**Protocol II.** Ten minutes prior to the intradermal injections, the animals were treated intravenously with IB4 F(ab)<sub>2</sub> fragments in doses of 0.1 mg/kg body weight (n = 6), 1.0 mg/kg body weight (n = 6), or 1 mL saline/kg body weight (controls; n = 6).

**Protocol III.** Five minutes after collecting an arterial blood sample from the central ear artery, 1 nmol of fMLF/kg body weight

was given intravenously. Additional leukocyte counting was performed at 2, 10, 30, and 60 minutes after the fMLF injection. The rabbits were pretreated with either PBS (1 mL/kg body weight IV) or IB4 (1.0 mg/kg body weight IV) 10 minutes before the fMLF injection. In addition, the myeloperoxidase activity in lungs was determined in three control rabbits that received PBS intravenously and in three rabbits that received fMLF. Two minutes after injection, the animals were killed, their lungs removed, and the myeloperoxidase activity analyzed as described above for skin tissues.

#### Murine IgG Concentration in Blood

In some experiments (see Fig 6), levels of murine IgG in rabbit plasma were assayed using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) technique. Microtiter plates were coated with a goat-anti-mouse IgG + M(H+L) (Jackson Immunoresearch Lab, Inc, Partille, Sweden) overnight, then incubated with known concentrations of murine IgG or with rabbit plasma samples for 2 hours at 37°C. Alkaline phosphatase-conjugated goat-anti-mouse-IgG + M(H+L) was then added (2 hours, 37°C), and p-Nitrophenyl phosphate (Sigma Chemical Co, St Louis, MO) was used as a substrate for a color reaction. OD<sub>405</sub> was measured in an ELISA reader.

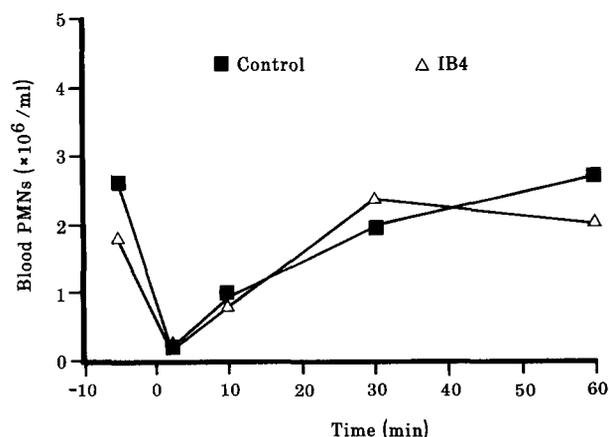
#### Statistics

Statistical differences between treatments were evaluated using one-way analysis of variance with multiple range testing according to the method of least significant differences. A difference at the 5% level was considered significant and is denoted in the figures by an asterisk. Data in text and figures are given as mean  $\pm$  SD.

## RESULTS

#### fMLF-Induced Neutropenia

fMLF, 1.0 nmol/kg body weight injected intravenously into rabbits, caused a 94% reduction in circulating peripheral blood PMNs within 2 minutes of injection (Fig 1). Loss of PMNs from the circulation was associated with retention of cells in the lung since the myeloperoxidase in lung tissue rose from  $0.27 \pm .05$   $\mu$ m/g (n = 3) to  $1.18 \pm .29$   $\mu$ m/g (n = 3) within 2 minutes of the injection of fMLF. The peripheral PMN count returned to a normal level after a 30-minute



**Fig 1.** IB4 does not prevent neutropenia in response to fMLF. Animals were pretreated with PBS (n = 6) or with IB4 (1.0 mg/kg body weight, n = 6) 10 minutes before injection with fMLF (1 nmol/kg body weight). At intervals, the density of PMNs in peripheral blood was determined.

period (Fig 1). Animals pretreated with IB4 (1.0 mg/kg body weight IV) 10 minutes before the fMLF injection showed a decrease in peripheral blood PMNs that was identical in extent (93%) and time course to that observed in control rabbits (Fig 1). The inability of anti-CD18 antibody to block transient neutropenia was confirmed in two additional experiments. Injection of ZAS (a source of C5a) caused a similar transient neutropenia, and pretreatment of animals with IB4 had no effect on the time course or extent of the neutropenia (data not shown). We also used a different anti-CD18 MoAb (60.3) and again observed no alteration in the time course or extent of fMLF-induced neutropenia (data not shown). These findings suggest that the CD18 molecules on PMNs are not involved in neutropenia caused by chemoattractants. To verify this surprising result, it was necessary to rigorously prove that the dosing regimen we used was sufficient to completely inhibit CD18 function.

#### Effect of IB4 on Movement of PMN Into Skin

ZAS injected intradermally into the dorsal region of control rabbits caused accumulation of PMNs at the injection site, measured by myeloperoxidase activity of the homogenized skin lesion (Fig 2A). Saline and histamine did not induce such PMN accumulation. Plasma leakage at the site of injection could be observed for both ZAS and histamine (Fig 2B). The leakage that follows ZAS injection is known to be PMN dependent, whereas histamine-induced plasma leakage is a PMN-independent process.<sup>20</sup>

Treatment of the animals with the MoAb IB4 10 minutes before the intradermal injections caused a dose-dependent decrease in ZAS-induced PMN accumulation (Fig 2A). Virtually complete inhibition of accumulation was observed at the highest dose (1 mg IB4/kg body weight) and significant reduction (>50%) was observed with as little as 0.03 mg/kg body weight. A similar dose-dependent reduction of ZAS-induced plasma leakage was also observed (Fig 2B), but the PMN-independent histamine-induced plasma leakage was unaffected by IB4 treatment (Fig 2B). The dose of IB4 needed for half-maximal inhibition of PMN accumulation in our experiments is approximately 30-fold less than the dose of another anti-CD18 MoAb, 60.3, needed for half-maximal blockade of movement of PMNs into endotoxin-containing sponges.<sup>10</sup>

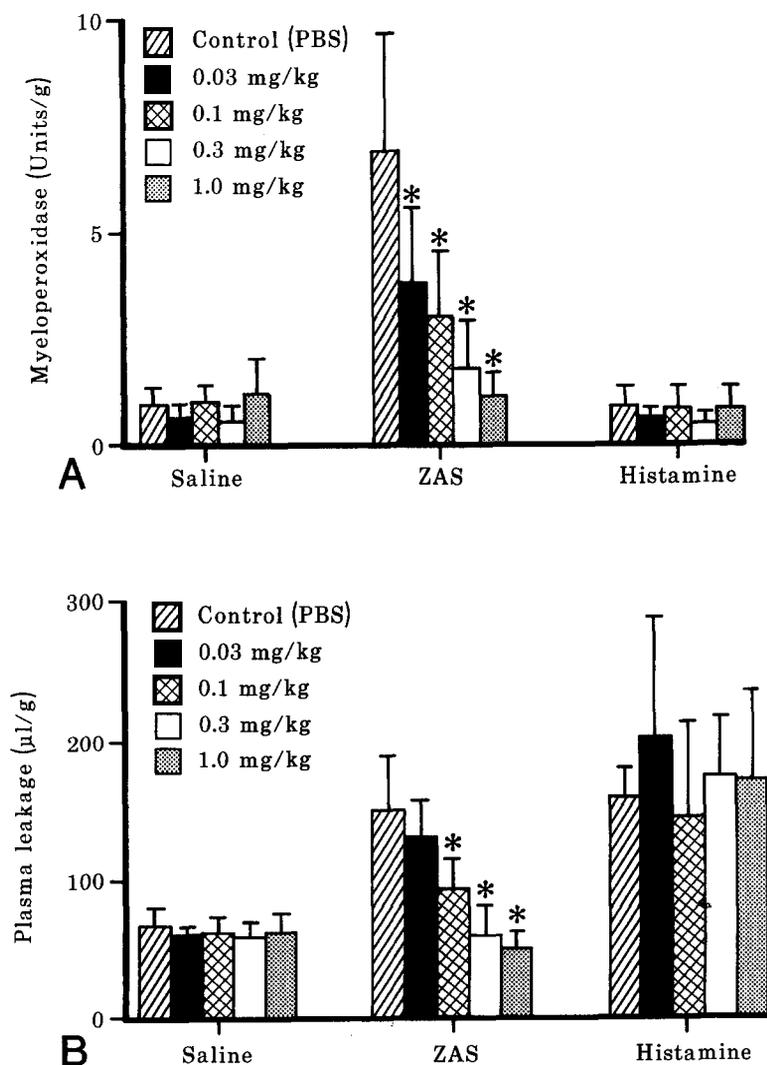


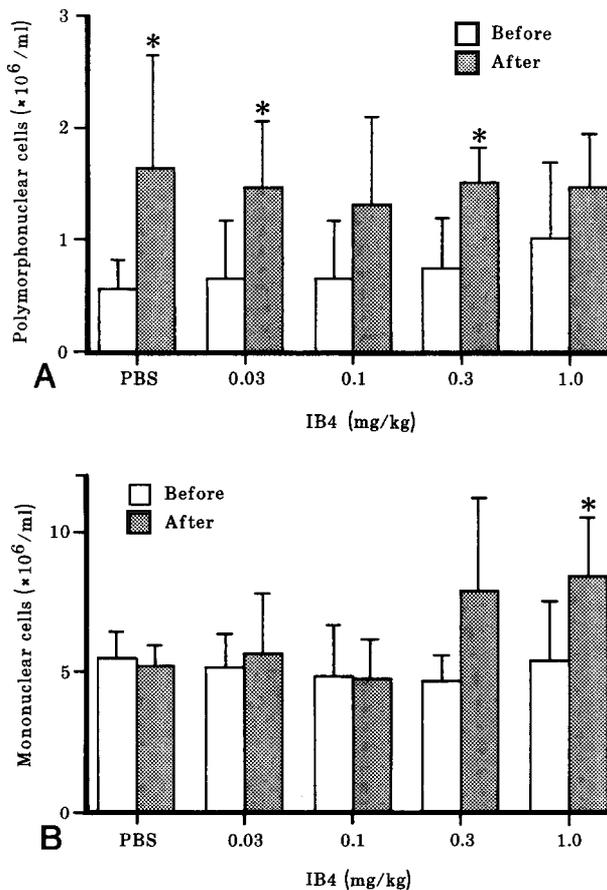
Fig 2. IB4 inhibits PMN accumulation and plasma leakage in response to ZAS. Saline, ZAS, or histamine were injected into animals pretreated with either PBS (control) or IB4 in doses ranging from 0.03 to 1.0 mg/kg body weight IV. Accumulation of PMNs (A) or leakage of plasma (B) was measured after 4 hours (n = 5).

The decreased accumulation of PMNs at the injection site of IB4-treated animals was not due to a paucity of PMNs in the circulation. Peripheral blood PMN counts showed an approximately twofold increase by the end of the 4-hour experimental period, presumably due to the experimental procedure, and IB4 had no significant effect on PMN levels (Fig 3A). Peripheral blood mononuclear cell density, however, increased slightly at the highest IB4 dose (1.0 mg/kg body weight, Fig 3B). The hematocrit of the experimental animals ranged between 33.0 and 35.8, and exhibited no changes after any of the experimental manipulations.

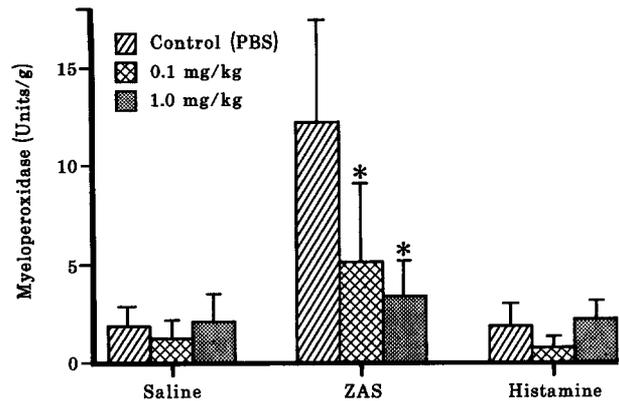
The Fc domain of IB4 was not necessary for the blockade of PMN emigration. F(ab)<sub>2</sub> fragments of IB4 caused an 87% inhibition in ZAS-induced accumulation of PMNs in the skin at 1.0 mg/kg body weight (Fig 4). To our knowledge, this is the first demonstration that F(ab)<sub>2</sub> fragments of an anti-CD18 mAb are effective in vivo.

*Half-life of IB4 in the Circulation*

The plasma levels of murine IgG were followed for 48 hours in rabbits that had received 3 mg IB4/kg body weight IV (Fig 5). The half-life of IB4 was found to be 11.5 hours, with circulating levels of IB4 well above saturation for the duration of the experiments described here.



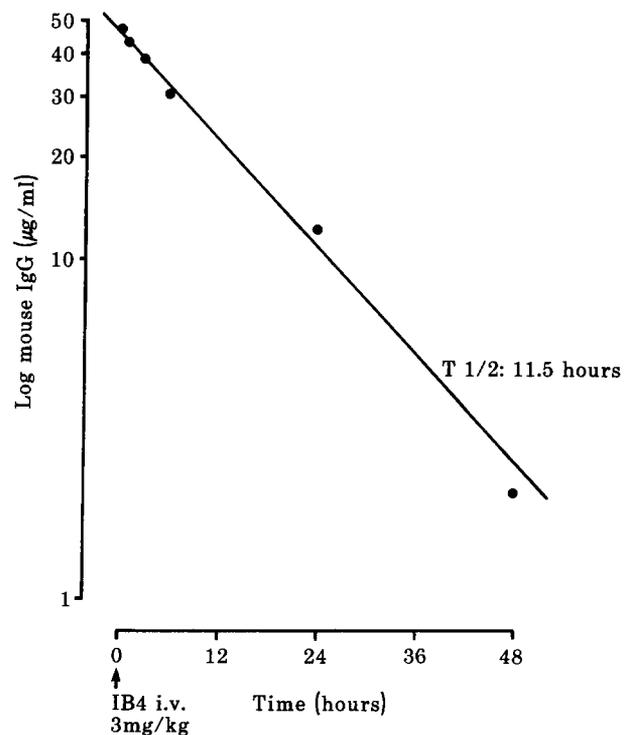
**Fig 3. IB4 does not cause neutropenia.** The density of peripheral PMNs (A) and mononuclear cells (B) was determined before and 4 hours after injection of PBS (control) or various doses of IB4 (n = 5).



**Fig 4. F(ab)<sub>2</sub> fragments of IB4 inhibit PMN accumulation in response to ZAS.** Animals were pretreated with either PBS (control, n = 6) or F(ab)<sub>2</sub> fragments of IB4 in two doses, 0.1 (n = 7) and 1.0 (n = 5) mg/kg body weight IV Saline, ZAS, or histamine were injected intradermally, and accumulation of PMN was determined after 4 hours.

DISCUSSION

Systemic administration of chemoattractants causes transient neutropenia with a time course characteristic of the chemoattractant used. For example, C5a causes very rapid neutropenia (1 minute) that returns to baseline by 15 minutes,<sup>12,13</sup> and tumor necrosis factor causes a slower neutropenia (30 minutes) that returns to baseline by 60 minutes.<sup>21</sup> Neutropenia caused by chemoattractants is associated with an accumulation of PMNs in the capillaries of the lungs, and the rebound in the number of circulating PMNs is



**Fig 5. Half-life of circulating IB4.** Plasma levels of murine IgG were determined after an intravenous injection of IB4 (3 mg/kg body weight) in rabbits (n = 6).

associated with a loss from the lungs (ref 22 and this study). Thus, the loss of PMNs from the peripheral circulation in response to chemoattractants appears to represent a transient "interaction" of PMNs with the endothelium in the lung. Candidate molecules that may mediate an adhesive interaction include the CD11/CD18 complex on PMNs. These receptors respond to chemoattractants *in vitro* with transiently enhanced adhesive capacity for endothelium, and the time course of the response to different chemoattractants corresponds closely to the time course of transient neutropenia observed *in vivo*.<sup>8,23</sup> Furthermore, the drug cytochalasin D has been shown to block both the chemoattractant-induced retention of PMNs in lungs<sup>24</sup> and the capacity of CD11b/CD18 to mediate adhesive events.<sup>25</sup> The data described here, however, suggest that the CD11/CD18 complex is not necessary for transient neutropenia. The concentrations of IB4 we used were sufficient to block by at least 95% the adhesion of PMNs to endothelium *in vitro*,<sup>8,23</sup> the movement of PMNs across the blood-brain barrier during meningitis in rabbits,<sup>26</sup> and the movement of PMNs into rabbit skin (Fig 2), but we observed no change in the extent or kinetics of the transient neutropenia caused by fMLF (Fig 1). Thus, retention of PMNs in the lung under these conditions is unlikely to be due to a CD11/CD18-dependent adhesion of PMNs with endothelium.

PMNs may aggregate in response to chemoattractants, and the presence of aggregates may prevent passage through the lung. However, PMN aggregation is completely dependent on CD11/CD18 molecules on PMNs and is completely blocked by IB4.<sup>27</sup> Thus, aggregation of PMNs is an unlikely explanation for the phenomenon of transient neutropenia caused by chemoattractants.

Worthen et al<sup>24</sup> recently suggested an alternative mechanism for the neutropenia caused by chemoattractants. fMLF causes a transient increase in the amount of filamentous actin

within PMNs,<sup>28</sup> which is associated with a decrease in the deformability of the cells.<sup>24</sup> Since chemoattractants cause PMNs to accumulate in the narrowest capillaries of the lung, their retention may result from an inability of cells to deform sufficiently for passage. The "interaction" of rigid PMNs with the capillary endothelium would thus be one of physical contact rather than adhesion mediated by receptors. Since actin polymerization may contribute to both enhanced cellular stiffness<sup>20</sup> and enhanced CD11/CD18 function,<sup>25</sup> the similar time course observed for changes in CD11/CD18 activity and retention of PMNs in the lung could derive from the dependence of both phenomena on a common antecedent event.

CD11/CD18 molecules appear not to be required for the transient interactions of PMNs in the "marginated pool" with endothelium, since injection of epinephrine into a CD11/CD18-deficient patient caused a normal increase in the number of circulating PMNs.<sup>29</sup> Similarly, our results show that CD11/CD18 molecules are not necessary for the interactions with endothelium that underlie the transient neutropenia caused by chemoattractants. However, CD11/CD18 molecules may play a role in other forms of transient interactions of PMNs with endothelium. Systemic injection of lipopolysaccharide causes a slow (30 minute) neutropenia due principally to accumulation of PMNs in the lung, and recent studies show that blockade of CD18 with MoAb IB4 prevents this response.<sup>30</sup> Thus, transient interaction of PMNs with endothelium may occur by both CD11/CD18-dependent and -independent mechanisms.

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