

COMPLEMENT SYSTEM

1-structure2-activation3-function

Complement (C)

- Complement components are proteins or glycoprotein that are synthesized mainly in the liver hepatocytes monocytes, macrophages, epithelial cells.
- Its function is to complete the action of antibodies to eliminate the pathogen.
- Its present in the blood serum.
- Its designated by the numerals (C1-C2C9) Numbered in order of discovered, not sequence of action and letter symbols like D, B,
- ~ 15% of globulin fraction
- The complement destroyed by heating the serum at 56C⁰ for 30 mins.

- circulate in **inactive state**
- once it is activated a peptide fragment will be formed and denoted by a small letters:
- small fragment designated ((a))
- large fragment designated ((b))

Complement activation

- Classical pathway.
- Alternative pathway.
- Lectin pathway.

Classical Pathway

- Adaptive immunity
- Ab(IgM, IgG3, IgG1, IgG2)+Ag called immune complex
- Fc portion of Ig recognized by C1
- C1q binds to Ag-Ab complex then C1r thenC1s (C1qrs)



Antigens

Initiation



C1

• is a macromolecule complex present in the serum . Consisting of 3 subunits

-C1q

- -C1r
- -C1s

Connected to each other by Ca++ dependents bounds.



- *AgAb Activate C1q then C1r then C1s
- *C1s had enzymetic activity (estrase activity) cleaves C4 into two fragments
- –C4a
- -C4b



- **C1s** in the presence of C4b will split C2 into two fragments (C2a and C2b)
- and C2
- Formation of
- C3 convertase(C4b2a)
- that Cleaved C3 into C3a and C3b forming a complex called C5 convertase (C4b2a3b)



C5 is cleaved by C5 convertase which had enzymatic activity that cleave C5 into:

C5a and C5b

-C5b attached to cell membrane to form

C4b2a3b5b act as a receptor to

C6 then C7 then C8 and C9

to form a complex called

membrane attachcomplex(MAC)(C

causing a pore on the

cell surface \rightarrow influx of

Na+ and water \rightarrow lysis of the cell.





- C3a, C4a = act as a mediator of anaphylaxis and chemotactic substance.
- C3b = immune adherence in opsonization

Mannose Binding Lectin (MBL)pathway

- MBL: is a serum protein that binds to mannose in microbial cell wall
- Is part of Innate immunity
- This complex had a function as **C1qrs**
- This complex cleaves C4 and C2C9



Alternative Pathway

Can be initiated by three distinct ways:

<u>1-Tickover pathway</u>



Alternative Pathway

- Can be initiated by three distinct ways:
- **<u>1-Tickover pathway</u>**: by spontaneous hydrolysis of C3 yielding C3(H₂O)that bind to factor B in the presence of factor D will be cleaved into : C3(H₂O)Bb called C3 convertase(fluid phase)and Ba
- this initiate more breaking down of C3 into C3a and C3b
- This C3b bound to microbial surface and bind to factor B that cleaves into Ba and Bb in the presence of factor D lead to formation C3bBb called C3 convertase (Membrane bound) and Ba.

- Formation of C3 convertase (C3bBb)
- requires properdin (Factor P) that Breaks more C3. This is called positive feedback loop.
- This leads to formation C5 convertase (C3bBbC3b) that act on C5 cleaves it into C5a and C5b and continue the same reaction as classsical pathway (C6789)→cell lysis.

2- <u>Alternative Properdine –activated pathway:</u>

- -Properdine may also serve to initiate complement
- -Proberdine binds to components of microbial membranes and stabilizes the binding of C3b to Bb complex resulting <u>C3bPBb</u> complex that act as C3 convertase



3- <u>Alternative Protease – activated pathway</u>

- Proteins factors involved in blood clotting such as <u>thrombin and plasmin</u> are capable of generating both C3a and C5a
- C5b binds to microbial cell wall and stabilized by C6

Biological Effects of Complement Activation

Cell Receptors for Complement

- CR1(complement receptor 1)(CD35)
 - Present on Macrophages, neutrophils
 - Binds C3b
 - clearance of immune complexes and enhancement of phagocytosis
- CR3(complement receptor 3)
 - present on Macrophages, neutrophils
 - Binding to adhesion molecules facilitates extravasation

Regulation of Complement activity

- 1. C1 inhibitor promotes dissociation of C1 components.
- Decay accelerating factor promotes decay of C3 convertase
- 3. Protein S prevents insertion of C3b67 into host cell membrane

Complement Deficiencies

- C3 deficiency leads to recurrent bacterial infection
- C9 Deficiency leads to increase Neisseria infection (Gonococcal and Meningococcal)
- C1 inhibitor Deficiency leads to Hereditary angioneurotic edema.

Thank you