REGENERATIVE ACTIVITY OF SINGENEIC HEPATOCYTES INOCULATED INTO SPLEEN

Functional activity of hepatocytes inoculated into spleen has already been assessed. We have designed this work to check the ability of these cells to respond to regenerative stimuli.

Material and methods. Singeneic Fisher rats were used as receptors (200 g) and donnors (300 g) of hepatocellular transplantation. Hepatocytes were isolated by continous perfusion with collagenase 0.5%. Survival rate (94+2%) was assessed by Tripan Blue exclusion test. 20 million hepatocytes suspended in 1 cc of Hank's Solution were inoculated into spleen. 70% hepatectomy has been performed 24 h after inoculation. Daily doses of CsA (20 mg/Kg i.p.) have been administered from the day before transplantation. Four groups of seven animals have been considered: (I) control, (II) 70% hepatectomy, (III) CsA, (IV) CsA + 70% hepatectomy. Animals were sacrificed 48 h. after inoculation and hepatocytes' DNA content was measured by means of a microcytoespectrophotometric method. Mean percentage of regenerating hepatocytes (MPRH) was then assessed.

Results. Hepatic MPRH was: (I) 8.58%, (II) 35.12%, (III) 27.28% and (IV) 23.94%. Splenic MPRH was: (I) 19.23%, (II) 36.39%, (III) 11.59%, (IV) 23.94%. Liver hepatocytes showed a regenerative response similar to control livers': 70% hepatectomy and CsA (both alone or combined) increased hepatocytes' DNA (p<0.05) without significant differences between the three groups. Hepatocytes inoculated into spleen had a DNA content similar to liver hepatocytes'. However in animals subjected to 70% hepatectomy (with or without CsA) splenic hepatocytes' DNA content was greater than control hepatic hepatocytes' (p<0.05).

Conclusions. Hepatocytes inoculated into spleen responded to 70% hepatectomy with a regenerative activity similar to hepatic hepatocytes'. Nevertheless they did not respond to CsA's regenerative stimulus.

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