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Summary

UNRAVELLING THE ROLE OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF IMMUNOGENICITY TO BIOLOGICS IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE PATIENTS

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A mass cytometry study of lymph node biopsies from Crohn's disease patients found increased CD4+ effector memory T-cells, mature NK cells, and monocytes in patients who developed anti-drug antibodies compared to those who did not.

KEY POINTS

- Eight Crohn's disease patients (4 with anti-drug antibodies, 4 without) underwent ultrasound-guided inguinal lymph node biopsies analyzed by mass cytometry to investigate immunogenicity mechanisms.
- Patients with anti-drug antibodies showed significantly higher proportions of CD4+ TEMRA T-cells (median 5.3% vs 0.16%, p=0.02), CD4+ effector memory T-cells (3.2% vs 0.5%, p=0.049), mature NK cells (4.04% vs 0.08%, p=0.029), and classical and non-classical monocytes in lymph nodes.
- Alpha-4 integrin expression was elevated in lymph node effector T-cells (mean 1.61 vs 0.87, p=0.03) and memory B-cells (1.58 vs 0.94, p=0.03) in the anti-drug antibody group, suggesting higher migratory potential.
- The authors conclude that lymph node T-helper cells, monocytes, and NK cells potentially play a role in anti-drug antibody development in IBD patients treated with biologics, though no difference in B-cell proportions was observed.

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