

## Psoriatic skin reveals the *in vivo* presence of an epidermal IL-1 inhibitor

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**Summary.** Production of inhibitor(s) of IL-1 activity can be induced in keratinocytes by exposure to UVB. We describe in this study the characterization of an endogenous constitutively expressed IL-1 inhibitor which is present in extracts of human psoriatic epidermal keratome biopsies. Size-fractionated extracts of normal human epidermis did not reveal IL-1 inhibitory factor(s) activity in normal epidermis. Psoriatic epidermal extracts, however, contained virtually no IL-1 bioactivity and inhibited the activity of recombinant human IL-1 $\beta$ . This IL-1 inhibitor has a molecular weight of approximately 30 kDa and a pI of 5.3, as revealed by fast protein liquid chromatography size fractionation and chromatofocusing of psoriatic epidermal extracts. IL-1 inhibitory activity was not blocked by neutralizing anti-TGF $\beta$  monoclonal antibody. It did not have any inhibitory effect upon normal cellular proliferation but could block the IL-1 induction of IL-2 production by LBRM.33 cells as late as 4 h after exposure of LBRM.33 cells to IL-1. Thus, *in vivo* human psoriatic epidermis expresses an IL-1 inhibitor that specifically inhibits IL-1 activity but which appears distinct from previously described UV-induced epidermal IL-1 inhibitory activity or TGF $\beta$ .

**Key words:** Psoriasis – Epidermis – IL-1 – IL-1 inhibitor

The epidermis is often the first point of contact between the immune system and the environment. Numerous cytokines are produced by cells located within the epidermis for the purpose of modulating the immune response.

Among the cytokines produced by keratinocytes are: IL-1 $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  [26], murine IL-3 [31], IL-6 [28], GM-CSF [27], IL-8 [29], TNF $\alpha$  [38] and TGF $\alpha$  [14, 18] and  $\beta$  [15]. The epidermis can also produce inhibitors of cytokines, in particular IL-1. TGF $\beta$  can block some effects of IL-1 [46], and accounts, at least in part, for the inhibitory activity of keratinocyte lymphocyte inhibitory factor [37]. An epidermal inhibitor of IL-1 activity that is inducible by UVB radiation has also been described. This IL-1 inhibitor has a molecular weight of 40 kDa and an isoelectric point of 8.8 [40]. Additional IL-1 inhibitors have been described in other systems. IL-1 inhibitors have been detected in the urine of patients with fever [30, 41] and monocytic leukemia [3], and natural antagonists of the IL-1 receptor have been described [5, 21].

We have previously found that IL-1 activity is markedly decreased in psoriatic epidermis [9]. This was due to a decrease in IL-1 $\alpha$  protein and non-functionality of increased IL-1 $\beta$  protein levels. However, the clear absence of IL-1 activity in many patient samples, despite the presence of detectable IL-1 $\alpha$  (albeit at reduced levels), suggested that the reduced functional activity may also be influenced by the presence of an IL-1 inhibitor. We found that, indeed, psoriatic cytosolic extracts from involved skin, but not uninvolved skin, inhibited IL-1 activity. The epidermal IL-1 inhibitor detected in psoriatic epidermis was functionally and physicochemically characterized. Based upon these results the molecule was identified as being different from such epidermal IL-1 inhibitors as TGF $\beta$  and the UVB-inducible keratinocyte IL-1 inhibitor.

### Materials and methods

#### Materials

Polyethylene glycol (PEG, MW 8000), 3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT), Tween 20, and phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF) were obtained from Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, Mo., USA. A fast protein liquid chromatography (FPLC) apparatus, Mono P anion exchange

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column and Polybuffer 74 were purchased from Pharmacia, Piscataway, N. J., USA. A TSK G2000SW molecular sizing column was from Toyo Sodo, Tokyo, Japan. Human recombinant rIL-1 $\beta$  was a gift from Dr. R. C. Newton (DuPont Glenolden Lab., Glenolden, Pa., USA). Peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG was from Tago, Inc. (Burlingame, Calif., USA). The monoclonal antibody to TGF $\beta$ 2 (1D11.16), which crossreacts with TGF $\beta$ 1 [11], was obtained from Collagen Corp. (Palo Alto, Calif., USA).

### *Preparation of keratome biopsys cytosols*

Keratome biopsies were taken from untreated psoriatic plaques or from normal skin of the hips or buttocks. Biopsies were taken using a Castro Viejo keratome set at 0.2–0.3 mm for normal skin and 0.5 mm for psoriatic skin. Keratome strips were immediately snap frozen in liquid nitrogen.

Keratome biopsies were pulverized under liquid nitrogen, then Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline (DPBS, Ca<sup>2+</sup>- and Mg<sup>2+</sup>-free) with 1 mM PMSF and 0.03% PEG was added to obtain a solution consisting of 100 mg wet sample per millilitre of buffer. After homogenization with a glass homogenizer, cytosols were obtained by ultracentrifugation (100000  $\times g$  for 1 h), then sterile filtered and stored at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

### *Fast protein liquid chromatography (FPLC)*

The biopsy cytosol (2 ml) was applied to a TSK G2000SW column equilibrated with DPBS plus 0.03% PEG. The flow rate was 1.0 ml/min and 2.0 ml fractions were collected. The column was calibrated with bovine serum albumin (Sigma, 66000 MW), carbonic anhydrase (Sigma, 29000 MW), cytochrome C (Sigma 12400 MW) and aprotinin (Sigma, 6500 MW). Each fraction was sterilized with a 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  millipore filter and assayed for the presence of IL-1 inhibitory activity.

TSK G2000SW fractions with inhibitory activity were pooled, dialyzed against 0.025 M Bis-Tris (pH 6.3) and loaded into a Mono P column (0.5  $\times$  20 cm) equilibrated with 0.025 M Bis-Tris (pH 6.3). The column was eluted with 10% polybuffer 74 (pH 4.0) at a rate of 0.5 ml/min and 1 ml fractions were collected. Fractions were dialyzed against DPBS using dialysis membrane with a 12000–14000 MW cut-off (Spectra, Por, Los Angeles, Calif., USA). Fractions were then sterile filtered and assayed for IL-1 inhibitory activity.

### *IL-1 inhibitory assay*

**Thymocyte proliferation.** The presence of IL-1 inhibitory activity in biopsy cytosols was detected by inhibiting the co-proliferation signal of IL-1 upon mouse thymocytes stimulated with PHA. C3H/HeN mouse thymocyte cells (50  $\mu\text{l}$ ,  $3 \times 10^7/\text{ml}$ ), 50  $\mu\text{l}$  PHA (4  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ), 50  $\mu\text{l}$  rIL-1 $\beta$  (1.4 U/ml) and 50  $\mu\text{l}$  biopsy cytosol at various dilutions were added per well of 96-well flat-bottomed plates. Each dilution and controls were done in triplicate. After a 3-day incubation period at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ , thymocytes were pulsed with 1  $\mu\text{Ci}$  <sup>3</sup>H-thymidine and incubated for another 6 h before harvesting and counting on a liquid scintillation counter.

**LBRM.33 IL-2 production.** Alternatively, IL-1 inhibitory activity was measured by blocking the production of IL-2 by LBRM.33 cells in response to IL-1. Fractions from the TSK G2000SW column were tested for IL-1 inhibitory activity. Each undiluted fraction (50  $\mu\text{l}$ ) was added to LBRM.33 cells (50  $\mu\text{l}$ ,  $10^5$  cells/well), PHA (50  $\mu\text{l}$ , 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{well}$ ) and rIL-1 $\beta$  (50  $\mu\text{l}$ , 1 U/well) in flat-bottomed 96-well microtiter tissue culture plates and the mixture incubated for 24 h at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Supernatants from stimulated LBRM.33 cells were serially diluted, and 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of each dilution was then transferred

into flat-bottomed 96-well microtiter plates containing 10000 HT-2 (20  $\mu\text{l}$ ) cells, an IL-2 additive murine T-cell clone. After a 48 h incubation at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ , viability of the HT-2 cells was tested by the degree of MTT reduced by live cells. The OD of reduced MTT was measured by an ELISA reader using wavelengths of 570 and 620 nm as described by Mosmann [35]. Quantification of the amount of IL-2 produced by LBRM.33 cells was made in relation to an IL-2 standard curve that had 250 U/ml of IL-2 activity (rat TCGF). Comparison of the 50% of maximal response of the LBRM.33 sample was made with the standard to obtain the amount of IL-2 U/ml.

### *Neutralization assay using anti-TGF $\beta$ 1 serum*

Monoclonal antibody (40  $\mu\text{l}$ , 150 ng/well) against TGF $\beta$ 1 (1D11.16) was added to 96-well flat-bottomed tissue culture plates and preincubated with 40  $\mu\text{l}$  TGF $\beta$ 1 (0.5 ng/well) or undiluted TSK G2000SW fraction pools containing IL-1 inhibitory activity for 2 h at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Then 40  $\mu\text{l}$  of each of the following were added to achieve the indicated concentrations: rIL-1 $\beta$  (1 U/well), PHA (2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{well}$ ), and LBRM.33 cells ( $10^5$  cells/well). The cultures were then incubated for 24 h at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The IL-1 inhibitor assay was then continued as described above.

### *Cell proliferation inhibition assays*

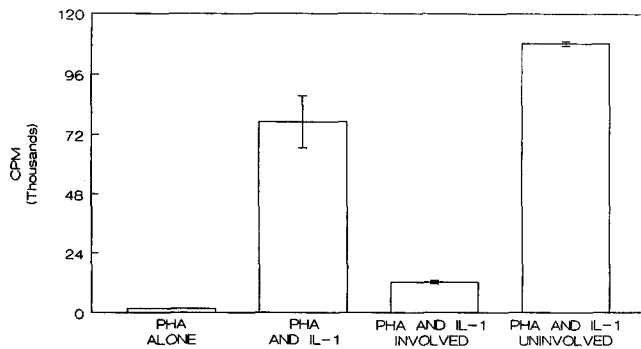
A squamous cell carcinoma cell line (SCC 38) (100  $\mu\text{l}$ ) provided by Dr. T. E. Carey (Department of Otorhinolaryngology, University of Michigan Medical School) [22] or low passage human dermal fibroblasts ( $10^5$  cells/ml) were added to each well of flat-bottomed 96-well tissue culture plates and incubated overnight at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Medium was removed and 50  $\mu\text{l}$  fresh medium and 50  $\mu\text{l}$  undiluted fractions or DPBS were added to each well. Cells were then incubated for 48 h, pulsed with 1  $\mu\text{Ci}$  <sup>3</sup>H-thymidine per well for 6 h, harvested using a PHD cell harvester and counted in the presence of Bio-Safe liquid scintillation fluid.

HT-2 cellular proliferation was measured by the degree of MTT reduced. HT-2 cells (20  $\mu\text{l}$ ,  $5 \times 10^5/\text{ml}$ ) were added to 50  $\mu\text{l}$  5% Rat TCGF and 50  $\mu\text{l}$  undiluted fractions. After a 48 h incubation period at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 10  $\mu\text{l}$  MTT (5 mg/ml) was added and incubated for another 4 h at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The OD of reduced MTT was measured by an ELISA reader using wavelengths of 570 and 670 nm as described by Mosmann [35]. The amount of suppression of HT-2 growth was calculated by dividing the delta absorbance obtained in the presence of fractions by that obtained with cells grown without fractions but in the presence of 5% rat TCGF.

## **Results**

### *Psoriatic cytosolic extracts of involved, but not uninvolved, skin block IL-1 activity in the thymocyte proliferation assay*

The thymocyte co-stimulation assay assesses the co-stimulatory activity of IL-1 with suboptimal doses of PHA to activate murine thymocytes. When skin cytosols were added to murine thymocytes stimulated with PHA and a known amount of IL-1 $\beta$ , psoriatic cytosols from involved skin, but not cytosols from uninvolved skin, blocked the IL-1 stimulation of thymocyte proliferation



**Fig. 1.** Psoriatic involved skin, but not uninvolved skin, cytosol inhibits the IL-1 co-mitogenic signal to PHA-stimulated murine thymocytes. Proliferative response of mouse thymocytes to PHA (1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) alone or PHA (1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) and IL-1 $\beta$  (0.35 U/ml) is indicated by the *first* and *second* bars, respectively. The effect of the addition of involved or uninvolved skin cytosol to mouse thymocytes stimulated with IL-1 $\beta$  and PHA is indicated by the *third* and *fourth* bars, respectively. Data is expressed as mean cpm  $\pm$  SEM of triplicates from one experiment

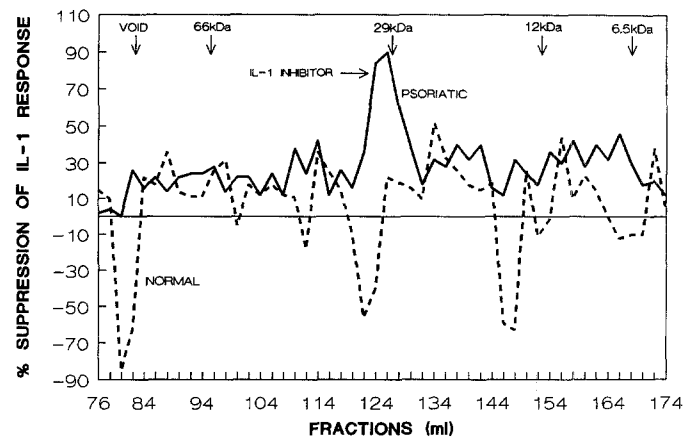
(Fig. 1). Cytosols from lesional psoriatic skin were virtually devoid of IL-1 activity in the mouse thymocyte assay (mean  $\pm$  SEM, 3900  $\pm$  1290 cpm;  $n = 11$ ), whereas, uninvolved psoriatic skin (mean  $\pm$  SEM, 15300  $\pm$  3522 cpm;  $n = 10$ ) and control skin (mean  $\pm$  SEM, 20948  $\pm$  7030 cpm;  $n = 6$ ) contained substantial activity, similar to our previous findings utilizing the LBRM.33 cell line [9].

#### Detection of IL-1 inhibitory activity in size-fractionated psoriatic epidermal cytosols

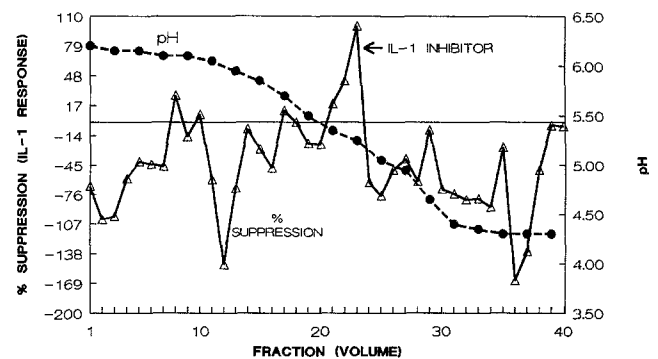
To determine whether IL-1 inhibitory activity in psoriatic skin was similar in size to previously described IL-1 inhibitors, cytosols were size-fractionated by FPLC. The fractions were then tested for suppression of IL-1 stimulation of LBRM.33 cells, an assay that is more specific for IL-1 than the thymocyte proliferation assay. Psoriatic keratome biopsy cytosols, when fractionated by FPLC on a TSK G2000SW column, revealed the presence of a molecule of about 30 kDa with IL-1 inhibitory activity (Fig. 2, *solid line*). When normal keratome biopsy cytosol of equivalent protein concentration was fractionated in a similar manner, no IL-1 inhibitory activity was observed at this molecular weight (Fig. 2, *dashed line*).

#### Epidermal IL-1 inhibitor pI differs from EC-contra-IL-1

Because of the similarity in molecular weight with the UV-inducible epidermal-contra-IL-1 molecule, the isoelectric point of the psoriatic epidermal IL-1 inhibitor was determined. The 30 kDa fractions from the TSK G2000SW column with IL-1 inhibitory activity were pooled and chromatofocused by FPLC on a Mono P column. IL-1 inhibitory activity eluted at pH 5.3 (Fig. 3). This is much more acidic than the pI 8.8 reported for EC-contra-IL-1 [40].



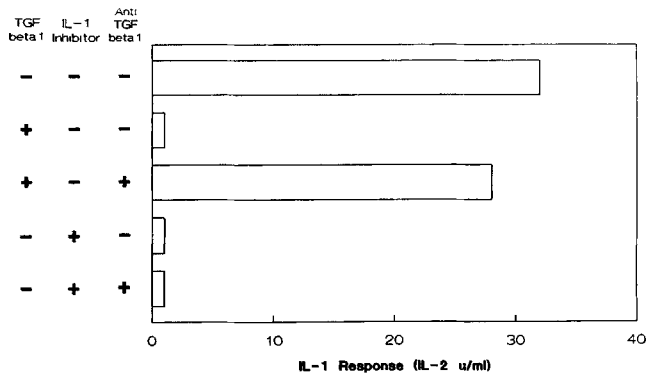
**Fig. 2.** Normal and psoriatic keratome biopsy cytosols of equivalent protein concentration were fractionated by FPLC on a TSK G2000SW column. Fractions were then assayed for IL-1 inhibitory activity. Levels in normal keratome biopsy cytosols are indicated by a *broken line* and by a *solid line* for psoriatic cytosol fractions. Data is representative of six and three independent fractionations of psoriatic and normal keratome biopsy cytosols, respectively



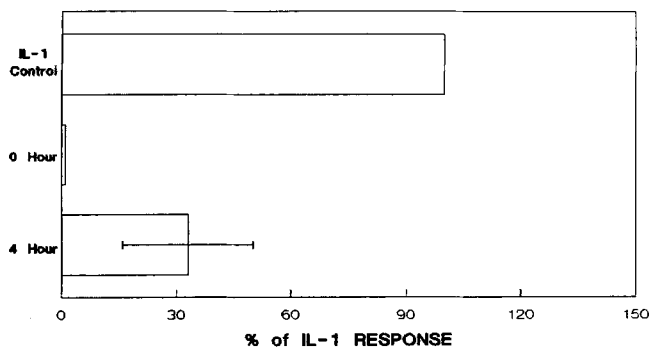
**Fig. 3.** Fractions from the TSK G2000SW column containing IL-1 inhibitory activity were pooled and loaded into a Mono P column. Both the fractions and the Mono P column were equilibrated with 0.025 M Bis-Tris buffer (pH 6.3) before the fractions were loaded. The sample was eluted with Polybuffer 74 (pH 4.0). pH gradient is indicated by *closed circles*. Percent suppression of IL-1 response is indicated by *open triangles*

#### Epidermal IL-1 inhibitor is not TGF $\beta$ 1

The homodimer form of TGF $\beta$ 1 (MW, 25 kDa) is a known inhibitor of IL-1 action [46] and is also similar in molecular weight to the epidermal IL-1 inhibitor (MW, 30 kDa). We, therefore, determined whether the IL-1 inhibitory activity could be neutralized by a neutralizing anti-TGF $\beta$ 1 monoclonal antibody. TGF $\beta$ 1 was indeed capable of inhibiting the response of LBRM.33 cells to IL-1 (Fig. 4, *second bar*). A monoclonal antibody against TGF $\beta$ 1 (1D1.116) was able to neutralize the TGF $\beta$ 1 inhibitory activity (Fig. 4, *third bar*). However, when this monoclonal antibody was added to the epidermal IL-1 inhibitor no effect was observed on the IL-1 inhibitory activity (Fig. 4, *fifth bar*). Even when the monoclonal antibody concentration was utilized at a concentration 100 times that used in Fig. 4, no neutralization of the



**Fig. 4.** Fractions from the TSK G2000SW column containing IL-1 inhibitory activity of 30 kDa molecular weight were pooled and used in these experiments. LBRM.33 cells were exposed to TGF $\beta$ 1 (second row), TGF $\beta$ 1 and anti-TGF $\beta$ 1 (third row), IL-1 inhibitor (fourth row), or IL-1 inhibitor and anti-TGF $\beta$ 1 (fifth row). The IL-1 response is given in terms of the amount of IL-2 produced by the stimulated LBRM.33 cells

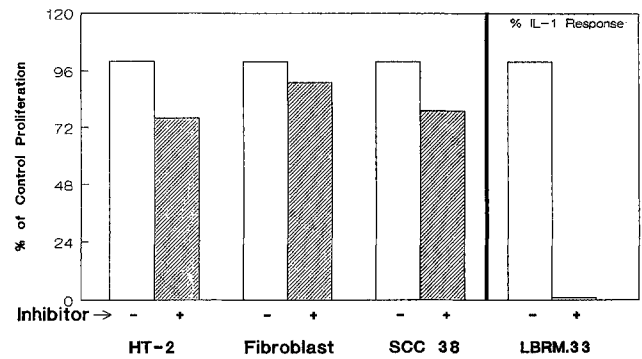


**Fig. 5.** TSK G2000SW fractions containing the 30 kDa IL-1 inhibitor were assayed for an inhibitory effect after IL-1 receptor binding and stimulation had already been initiated. LBRM.33 cells were stimulated with rIL-1 $\beta$  and PHA and the IL-1 inhibitor was added at the initiation of the stimulant (middle row, 0 h) or 4 h later (bottom row, 4 h). Results are expressed as the percent of the IL-1-induced response (IL-2 production) and are the mean  $\pm$  SD of three experiments. Addition of IL-1 inhibitor at 0 h (middle row) always resulted in no IL-1 response, thus no error bars

epidermal IL-1 inhibitor activity was observed (not shown).

#### Epidermal IL-1 inhibitor has a delayed inhibitory effect

A recently cloned IL-1 receptor antagonist encodes for a protein of 17–25 kDa MW that inhibits IL-1 activity by competing for binding to the IL-1 receptor [5, 21]. If the psoriatic epidermal IL-1 inhibitor was acting by blocking the IL-1 receptor, then addition of the IL-1 inhibitor 4 h after exposure of the LBRM.33 cells to IL-1 should result in no inhibition. Binding of IL-1 molecules to IL-1 receptors expressed on LBRM.33 cells is rapid, with equilibrium being reached within 1 h [13]. When the 30 kDa IL-1 inhibitor was given to LBRM.33 cells 4 h after IL-1 stimulation, only one-third of the normal IL-1 response was observed (Fig. 5). The degree of delayed inhibition of LBRM.33 IL-2 production by inhibitor ranged from



**Fig. 6.** The TSK G2000SW purified IL-1 inhibitor was added to various cell types to determine the effect upon cell proliferation. HT-2 cell growth (first two bars) was measured by MTT reduction.  $^3$ H-thymidine incorporation was used to measure cell proliferation for fibroblast (second pair of bars) and SCC 38 cells (third pair of bars). The last pair of bars represents the effect of the IL-1 inhibitor upon the LBRM.33 response to IL-1. Unhatched bars are cells cultured without IL-1 inhibitor and hatched bars represents cells cultured in the presence of the IL-1 inhibitor. Results are expressed as percent of cell growth in the absence of IL-1 inhibitor

45% to 100% in three experiments, indicating an action on LBRM.33 cells that is beyond pure receptor antagonism.

#### Epidermal IL-1 inhibitor does not non-specifically inhibit cell growth

The 30 kDa epidermal IL-1 inhibitor was added to other cell types to determine if it affects the growth response of the HT-2 T-cell clone to IL-2 or has antiproliferative effects upon other cells such as a squamous carcinoma cell line (SCC38) or dermal fibroblasts (Fig. 6). When the epidermal IL-1 inhibitor was added directly to HT-2 cells stimulated with IL-2, no effect upon HT-2 proliferation was observed (Fig. 6). No effect of the inhibitor was observed on proliferation of dermal fibroblasts or the SCC 38 cell line, as measured by  $^3$ H-thymidine uptake (Fig. 6). By contrast, the same semi-purified 30 kDa inhibitor used in the above experiments completely suppressed the IL-1 response of LBRM.33 cells (Fig. 6).

#### Discussion

We have demonstrated the presence of an epidermal IL-1 inhibitor in psoriatic lesions. The expression of this inhibitor, in concert with previously described reduced IL-1 $\alpha$  levels, accounts for the virtual absence of IL-1 activity in the intraepidermal compartment of psoriatic lesions. This IL-1 inhibitor has a molecular weight of approximately 30 kDa by FPLC on a silica gel column and a pI of 5.3. It also specifically inhibits IL-1-stimulated responses without affecting fibroblast or squamous cell carcinoma cellular growth or the response of a T-cell line, HT-2, to IL-2. These properties would suggest that it is not like other known epidermal inhibitors of IL-1-inducible responses.

TGF $\beta$ 1 is produced by keratinocytes [15] and is capable of inhibiting the response of T cells to IL-1 [46]. Thus, the 30 kDa epidermal IL-1 inhibitory activity could be attributed to the TGF $\beta$ 1 produced by keratinocytes. Three lines of evidence suggest that this molecule is not TGF $\beta$ 1. First, the IL-1 inhibitory molecule did not alter fibroblast proliferation, either by stimulating or inhibiting growth, known properties of TGF $\beta$ 1 [43]. Much stronger evidence is provided by the inability of a neutralizing monoclonal antibody to TGF $\beta$ 1 to neutralize the 30 kDa epidermal IL-1 inhibitory activity. Finally, the pI of TGF $\beta$ 1, which ranges between 6.8 and 7.4 [39], is distinct from that of the inhibitor detected in psoriasis.

The other known IL-1 inhibitor present in the epidermis is inducible by UVB radiation. This IL-1 inhibitor, also known as EC-contra-IL-1, has a molecular weight of 40 kDa and a pI of 8.8 [40]. The smaller size of the IL-1 inhibitor described in this study, its much more acidic pI and its lack of induction in keratinocytes by UVB (data not shown) appear to distinguish it from EC-contra-IL-1.

The size (17–25 kDa) and pI (4.5–5.3) ranges of the IL-1 receptor antagonist produced by peripheral blood mononuclear cells are similar to the physicochemical characteristics of the inhibitor detected in psoriatic cytosols, albeit somewhat smaller in size [24, 42]. The ability of the epidermal IL-1 inhibitor activity to act 4 h after IL-1 stimulation would suggest that the epidermal protein's activity is not limited to IL-1 receptor antagonism [5, 21]. It has recently been demonstrated that a natural IL-1 inhibitor which acts as a receptor antagonist has to be added within 20 min of IL-1 in order to be effective [33]. This question will finally be clarified by the determination of the amino-acid sequence of the epidermal IL-1 inhibitor contained in psoriatic epidermis; however, we have not yet been able to obtain amino-acid analysis of our epidermal material due to insufficient purity.

Other potentially related inhibitory activities produced by the epidermis might include products of arachidonic acid metabolism [4, 45], chalone-like growth inhibitors [6, 7, 32], growth-inhibitory pentapeptides [16] and proteins [23]. The small size of these molecules and their generalized effects on cell lines and bioassays tends to make them unlikely candidates.

Our failure to detect the epidermal IL-1 inhibitor in normal epidermis could be due to either the restriction of expression of the molecule to psoriatic lesions or the high levels of IL-1 $\alpha$  in normal epidermis compared with psoriatic lesions. Psoriatic fractions from the TSK G2000SW column containing IL-1 inhibitory activity also lacked significant levels of IL-1 $\alpha$ . However, equivalent fractions in the region where IL-1 inhibitory activity is observed in psoriatic extracts from fractionated normal keratome biopsy cytosol possessed high levels of IL-1 $\alpha$  (not shown), suggesting that the lack of IL-1 inhibitory activity in the normal fractions may be due to the presence of endogenous IL-1 $\alpha$  molecules which overwhelm the IL-1 inhibitory activity. However, the cellular source of this IL-1 inhibitor is not clear due to the large number of inflammatory cells present in psoriatic lesions, such as

monocytes, that could be producing IL-1 inhibitors [21]. This may explain the presence of this IL-1 inhibitor in psoriatic skin and its apparent absence in normal epidermis.

The occurrence of constitutively produced IL-1 $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  molecules in the epidermis would predict the presence of a balancing IL-1 inhibitor which could specifically regulate IL-1 responses in the skin. Such an IL-1 inhibitor may be needed where the release of large amounts of IL-1 by the keratinocytes would affect a wide variety of cells such as fibroblasts, endothelial cells, Langerhans cells, T cells and even keratinocytes [12]. Because IL-1 drives activated T cells to differentiate toward a TH<sub>2</sub> phenotype (high IL-4, low  $\gamma$ -interferon), low IL-1 activity due to the combination of an IL-1 inhibitor and low IL-1 $\alpha$  [9, 44] might explain the tendency of psoriatic skin to harbor CsA-sensitive T cells that produce  $\gamma$ -interferon [1, 2, 8, 19, 20, 34], that is a TH<sub>1</sub> phenotype [36], and to Koebnerize with  $\gamma$ -interferon [17, 25]. Because of the diversity of cells affected by epidermal IL-1 molecules, an IL-1 inhibitor that would specifically modulate the IL-1 response and not affect other cellular functions might play a critical role. The IL-1 inhibitor isolated from psoriatic epidermis, and possibly normal epidermis, could thus be involved in the down-regulation of IL-1-mediated responses in psoriatic skin [10].

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