

## **ROLE OF ADHERENT CELLS ON MITOGEN AND ANTIGEN-SPECIFIC PROLIFERATIVE RESPONSES OF THE VERVET MONKEY (*CERCOPITHECUS AETHIOPS*) PERIPHERAL BLOOD MONONUCLEAR CELLS**

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The role of adherent cells on antigen-specific and mitogen proliferative responses for the vervet monkey peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) was determined. The PBMC were stimulated *in vitro* with either tetanus toxoid, concanavalin A (Con A) or phytohaemmagglutinin before and after depletion of the AC. The results showed that AC totally suppressed antigen-specific memory responses in animals undergoing lymphocytosis. In normal animals AC partially suppressed the mitogen and memory responses. Depletion of the AC abrogated the suppressor activity against both antigen-specific and mitogen proliferative responses. However depletion had no effect on memory responses in lymphocytic animals. Abrogation of the suppressor activity suggests that monocytes are the major suppressor cells. The results indicate how suppressor activity by AC influence antigen-specific memory cells in patients with lymphoproliferative disorders and during immunization campaigns. Further studies are required to determine how the monocytes suppress antigen-specific, mitogen proliferative responses and cytokine secretion during infection with *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense*.