





RETICULO-ENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM

MONOCYTE-MACROPHAGE CELL SYSTEM

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Learning Outcomes



Describe the components of Reticulo-endothelial system.



Describe the role of monocyte macrophage system in immunity.



Explain the mechanism of destroying foreign body by the Monocyte-Macrophage System.

Reticulo - Endothelial System



Monocytes

- Largest leucocytes
- Immature cells when leave the bone marrow with little ability to fight infectious agent
- Circulate for **1-2** days before settling down in tissues
- Become large and mature \rightarrow

'Tissue Macrophages' (macro-large; phago-eater)

Lifespan of a macrophage is **months to years** unless dies sooner during phagocytosis (3months by BM transplantation data)

Monocyte

Monocyte



Carry antitumor, antiviral, antibacterial and antiparasitic immunity and are involved in regulation of hematopoiesis

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Wandering Macrophages

- Wandering Macrophages- monocytes that have recently entered tissues
- Monocytes change during Maturation
- 1. Increase in cell size
- Increase in number and complexity of organelles
 Golgi apparatus, mitochondria, lysosomes

Functions of Monocytes

- 1. In tissues form tissue macrophages –act as scavengers
- 2. Phagocytose several **bacteria (up to 100)**
- 3. Engulf large particulate matter, dead tissue cells and senile cells
- 4. Help with B & T lymphocyte in both **Humoral & Cellular** immunity

Tissues	Names Of Macrophages
Skin And Subcutaneous Tissues	Histiocytes
Lymph Nodes/ spleen	Sinus Histiocytes
Lungs	Alveolar Macrophages
Liver	Kupffer Cells
Kidneys	Mesangial Cells
Bone Marrow	Erythroblastic Island/ Hematopoietic stem cell/Osteal
Brain	Microglia



Tissue Macrophages In Spleen And Subcutaneous Tissues Skin is normally **impregnable** to infectious agents

Skin **when broken** → infectious agents can enter

Infection in subcutaneous tissues \rightarrow local inflammation and macrophages in the area multiply \rightarrow

Destruction of infectious agent

Macrophages In Lymph Nodes

- If infectious agent/ particles are **not destroyed** locally in tissues \rightarrow
- Enter the Lymphatic circulation → lymph Nodes and are destroyed by tissue macrophages lining the sinuses

Lymph Node



Alveolar Macrophages

- Can engulf, phagocytose and digest the invading organisms
- Form a **GIANT CELL** capsule if the particle is non digestible
- Such capsules are formed around Tuberculosis bacilli, Silica and Carbon particles

Kupffer Cells

Bacteria

• Gastrointestinal Tract

\rightarrow Portal Blood

- Liver sinusoids lined by Kupffer cells
- Phagocytosis and filtration

Kupffer Cells in Liver



Spleen and Bone Marrow

If the invading organism enters the circulation

→ trabeculae of red pulp and venous sinuses lined by macrophages
 → Phagocytosis of unwanted organism/matter(old RBCs)

Splenic Structure



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Functions of Spleen

- Formation of RBCs (fetal)
- Removal of unwanted elements from blood
- Reservoir function
- Role in defense mechanism
- Storage and metabolism of iron





(a) Diagram of the spleen, anterior view



(b) Diagram of spleen histology



CNS MICROGLIA BONE OSTEOCLAST SKIN LANGERTHAN CELLS



Mechanism of Destroying Foreign body

- Engulf inorganic particulate matter (carbon & dust particles)
- Formation of 'Multinucleated Giant Cell'
- Organic matter such as thorn, fish bone, catgut are destroyed by enzyme action & lysis
- Engulf micro-organism, senile WBC, RBC, tissue debris & some parasites
- Help 'T' & 'B' lymphocyte in the acquired immunity by presenting antigens

A Macrophage Engulfing Cocci



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Functions of Mononuclear Phagocytic System

- Phagocytosis and destruction of **foreign agents**
- Destruction of worn-out red blood cells \rightarrow
- Recycling of Iron Specialized macrophages in the bone marrow, liver, and spleen →
- break down old RBCs and metabolize the hemoglobin \rightarrow
- freeing the iron compound heme \rightarrow New Red Blood Cells

Disorders Associated with Mononuclear Phagocyte System

• Anemia caused by the excessive destruction of red blood cells

• Malignant Tumors that can be either localized or widespread malignant histiocytosis and monocytic leukemia

 Niemann-Pick disease and Gaucher disease are hereditary disorders characterized by abnormal products of lipid metabolism

Summary

References

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- Sherwood Physiology
- Ganong's Physiology
- www.britannica.com/science/mononuclear-phagocyte-system



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