IL10-inhibits Fibroblast Progenitor Cell-mediated Cardiac Fibrosis in Pressure-overloaded Myocardium

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**Background:** Activated fibroblasts (myoFBs) play critical role in cardiac fibrosis, however, their origin in diseased heart remains uncertain. Recent studies suggest the contribution of bone marrow fibroblasts progenitor cells (BM-FPC) in pressure overload (PO)-induced cardiac fibrosis. Previously we have shown that interleukin-10 suppress PO-induced cardiac fibrosis, however, its role on inhibition of BM-FPC-mediated fibrosis is not known. Thus, we hypothesized that IL-10 inhibits PO-induced homing and transition of BM-FPC to myoFBs and therefore, attenuates cardiac fibrosis.

**Methods and Results:** Cardiac fibrosis was induced in Wild-type (WT) and IL-10-knockout (KO) mice by transverse aortic constriction (TAC). TAC-induced left ventricular (LV) dysfunction and fibrosis were further exaggerated in KO mice. Systemic recombinant IL-10 administration markedly improved LV function and inhibited PO-induced cardiac fibrosis. PO-enhanced FPC (Prominin1+ cells) mobilization and homing in IL-10 KO mice compared to WT mice. Furthermore, bone marrow transplantation (BMT) experiment was performed wherein WT marrow from GFP mice was repopulated in IL-10 KO mice. FPC mobilization was significantly reduced in BMT-IL10 KO mice compared to IL-10 KO mice after TAC. Furthermore, immunofluorescence result in BMT mice showed that subsets of myoFBs are derived from BM after TAC. To identify the molecular mechanism, wild type BM-FPC were treated with TGFβ2 with or without IL10. IL10 treatment significantly inhibits TGFβ2-induced FPC to myoFBs transition. As miRNAs are key players in cardiac fibrosis, next we performed fibrosis-associated miRNA profiling using miRNA array kit. TGFβ2-induced miR-208, 155, 21 and 145 expression was markedly inhibited by IL-10.

**Conclusion:** Taken together, our findings suggest that both reduced homing to heart and transition of FPC to myofibroblasts mediate anti-fibrotic effect of IL10 during PO-induced heart failure. Ongoing investigations using molecular approaches will provide a better understanding on the mechanistic and therapeutic aspects of IL10 on PO-induced cardiac fibrosis and heart failure.

Disclosure Block:

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