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Title: cPLA2 α plays a role in neutrophilic inflammatory response in mice induced by tobacco smoke exposure

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Body: INTRODUCTION Lipid mediators possess a strong chemotactic activity, and it is thus hypothesized that they also play a pathogenic role in neutrophilic inflammatory responses induced by cigarette smoke (CS) exposure. To address this, cPLA2 α deficient mice were exposed to CS and then analyzed. METHODS cPLA2 deficient mice and litter-mate wild type mice were both exposed to CS for 9 days. Broncho-alveolar lavage (BAL) was performed and the fluid was collected. Cell counts, as well as their differentials, were determined. Furthermore, the protein levels of MMP-9 and keratinocyte-derived chemokine (KC), a murine homologue of human IL-8/CXCL-8, were measured in BAL fluid, using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). RESULTS Although the total cell counts in cPLA2 α deficient mice and those in wild type mice were mostly same in number, neutrophil counts were significantly lower in cPLA2 α deficient mice than in wild type by 69.7% reduction ($p < 0.05$). The KC protein levels in BAL fluid were 6.9 ± 3.3 pg/mL in cPLA2 α deficient mice, significantly lower than those in wild type mice, 11.0 ± 3.8 pg/mL ($p < 0.05$). MMP-9 levels in BAL fluid were 0.2 ± 0.2 ng/mL in cPLA2 deficient mice, significantly lower than those in wild type mice, 0.6 ± 0.2 ($p < 0.05$). DISCUSSION Our result demonstrated that reduction in KC production was in part dependent on lack of lipid mediators associated with cPLA2 α , and that both attenuated regulation of KC and lipid mediators further lead to reduction in neutrophil recruitment and MMP-9 production in the lung. It is thus implicated that induction of cPLA2 α in the lung plays a role in neutrophilic inflammation as well as remodeling process, induced by CS exposure.