



## Increased expression of α4β7 integrin on food allergen-stimulated CD4+ T cells in active food allergic enterocolitis

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We used flow cytometry to investigate the expression of  $\alpha4\beta7$  integrin on peripheral blood CD4+ T cells stimulated with  $\alpha$ s-casein, on e of the major allergens in milk allergy, in patients with milk-induced enterocolitis. In the active state of the disease, the levels of  $\alpha4\beta7$  integrin on  $\alpha$ s-casein-stimulated CD4+ T cells, as well as the numbers of positive cells, were higher than in the age-matched control. Upon outgrowing milk allergy,  $\alpha4\beta7$  integrin levels decreased to the same levels as in the healthy control. The proliferative responses of peripheral blood mononuclear cells to  $\alpha$ s-casein in the active state did not differ from those in the outgrown state, suggesting that the expression of  $\alpha4\beta7$  integrin on milk allergen-activated T cells is a marker of the activation state leading to the pathogenesis of milk-allergic enterocolitis.

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