



Th17 and Allergy

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The identification of novel helper T (Th) cell subsets, i.e., IL-17-producing Th cells (Th17 cells) and regulatory T cells (Treg cells), provided new insight into our understanding of the molecular mechanisms involved in the development of infectious and autoimmune diseases as well as immune responses, and thus led to revision of the classic Th1/Th2 paradigm. Several current lines of evidence from gene-deficient mice indicate that IL-17 and Th17 cells, but not IFN- γ and Th1 cells, are responsible for the development of autoimmune diseases such as murine arthritis and encephalomyelitis, which have classically been considered to be Th1-mediated disorders. Th17 cells may also contribute to the pathogenesis of classically recognized Th2-mediated allergic disorders. In this review, we summarize the current knowledge regarding IL-17 and Th17 cells and discuss their potential roles in the pathogenesis of allergic disorders.

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