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### Metal and dendritic cells

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#### Abstract:

Many metals and metal-containing compounds have been identified to induce various immunological disorders. In the skin, it is well known that metals contained in the dental amalgam and mercury in the clinical thermometer induce dysidrotic eczema and systemic contact dermatitis, respectively, while gold compound used in rheumatic arthritis triggers lichenoid drug eruption. The reason why various metals induce these allergic or immune responses in human is mainly attributed to the potential adjuvant activity of these metals. In general, dendritic cells including epidermal Langerhans cells are established to play a principal role in inducing T cell activation. Therefore, it is supposed that the allergic response induced by various metals is caused by their activation of dendritic cells. In this paper, I will present the effects of metals on dendritic cells.

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