

NLM AIDSLINE

Peripheral blood lymphocyte cell subsets in subjects with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: association with smoking, IgE and lung function.

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In contrast to the numerous studies which show that lymphocytes play an important role in the pathogenesis of asthma, few studies have investigated the role of lymphocytes in the pathogenesis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The aim of the present study was to investigate lymphocyte subsets in peripheral venous blood of smoking and non-smoking COPD patients and healthy controls. The interaction of smoking and IgE has also been assessed, and it was investigated whether a lower level of FEV1 was associated with changes in lymphocyte subsets. In the present study, peripheral venous blood lymphocyte subsets were investigated in 42 smoking and non-smoking, non-atopic subjects with a clear diagnosis of COPD (43-74 years) who all used bronchodilator therapy only, and in 24 normal, healthy control subjects (40-72 years). No significant differences in lymphocyte subsets were found when either total groups or smoking subjects of both groups were compared. However, the percentage of CD8+ lymphocytes (suppressor/ cytotoxic T-cells) was significantly higher in the non-smoking COPD subjects compared with the non-smoking, healthy control subjects (P *IgE/BLOOD *Lung/PHYSIOPATHOLOGY *Lung Diseases, Obstructive/IMMUNOLOGY *Smoking/IMMUNOLOGY *T-Lymphocyte Subsets

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