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Abstract n° 379

Impact of the exposure period to galactooligosaccharides/inulin prebiotics on immune system orientation.

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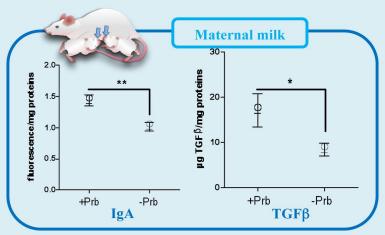
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Aim : To define the best exposure period (perinatal, postnatal) to a prebiotic mix able to induce immune pathways related to tolerance mechanisms.

Background: Prebiotics are digestion resistant molecules able to stimulate intestinal microbiota, acting then on immune system. They constitute emerging tools to alleviate some pathologies including allergies. However, there are not enough data proving their efficacy and their impact on immune system is yet not fully understood.

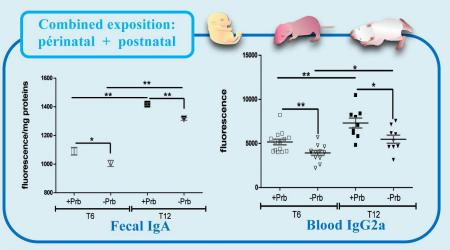
Methods: Balb/c mice were fed with a galactooligosaccharides/inulin prebiotic mix enriched diet along perinatal period (gestation, parturition, lactation) and/or postnatal period (from weaning to 12 weeks of age). Some markers of immune pathways related to tolerance mechanisms (T regulatory response: Treg: IgA, IL-10 and TGF β ; Th1 response: IgG2a and IFN γ) and to allergy (Th2 response: IgE IgG1 and IL-4) were analysed.

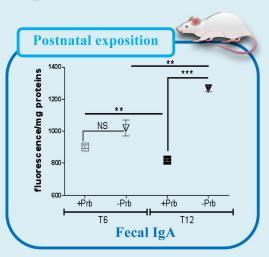


Results: When prebiotic enriched diet were introduced only during postnatal period, on the one hand IFN γ levels were increased, while IgG2a levels remain unchanged; on the other hand TGF β levels were increased, whereas IgA levels were decreased. Milk from lactating dams fed with prebiotic enriched diet displayed higher concentrations of both IgA and TGF β . When prebiotics were introduced during both perinatal and postnatal period, IL-10, IgA and IgG2a levels were increased. Whatever the exposition period to prebiotics IgG1, IgE and IL-4 levels remains unchanged (not shown).

	Cytokine concentration (pg/ml)					
	IFN-γ		TGFβ		IL-10	
	+Prb	-Prb	+Prb	-Prb	+Prb	-Prb
Combined	2597	2233	683	-	152 **	1.7
exposition	± 118	± 289	± 3826	-	± 51	± 0.7
1 Ostilatai	6430 ***	5423	92*	34	729	725
exposition	± 286	± 274	± 8	± 4	± 26	± 25

*, **, *** statistical différences between +Prb and -Prb





Conclusions: Prebiotic exposure period exert a major effect on cytokine and immunoglobulin secretion. This study proves that the combined exposure period (perinatal + postnatal) to prebiotic mix must be beneficial to induce Th1 and Treg related immunoglobulin production. This tolerogenic prebiotic effect must be mediated by microbiota and/or by maternal milk immunological active compounds such as IgA or TGF β . Thus perinatal prebiotic administration may constitute a good tool to induce oral tolerance and to prevent from allergic diseases.