

**THE ROLE OF ENDOTOXIN  
AND TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR  
IN THE PATHOGENESIS OF SEPTIC SHOCK**

by

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I have given you, O Adam, no fixed abode, and no visage of your own, nor any special gift, in order that whatever place or aspect or talents you yourself will have desired, you may have and possess them wholly in accord with your desire and your own decision. Other species are confined to a prescribed nature, under laws of my making. No limits have been imposed upon you, however; you determine your nature by your own free will, in the hands of which I have placed you. I have placed you at the world's very center, that you may the better behold from this point whatever is in the world. And I have made you neither celestial nor terrestrial, neither mortal nor immortal, so that, like a free and able sculptor and painter of yourself, you may mold yourself wholly in the form of your choice.

*Oratio de hominis dignitate*

**Pico della Mirandola**

(Quoted in Yourcenar, 1976)

"I don't mind being bone and feathers, mom. I just want to know what I can do in the air and what I can't, that's all. I just want to know."

**Jonathan Livingston Seagull**

(Bach, 1970)

## ABSTRACT

Lethality, weight loss and Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) production induced by lipopolysaccharide (LPS) were studied in rats during early and late endotoxin tolerance. Different O-specific types of LPS were used. The TNF serum profile in two models of sepsis and the effect of LPS tolerance in the lethality induced by these models were also investigated. Results show diminished LPS-induced TNF levels during early LPS tolerance either elicited with the same or a different type of LPS. No correlation was found between TNF levels and LPS-induced mortality in naive animals. Low toxicity LPS preparations induced TNF levels similar to levels induced with toxic types of LPS. Late tolerance was associated with low levels of LPS-induced TNF and similar susceptibility to the lethal effect as naive rats. Early endotoxin tolerance conferred high protection from mortality induced with live intra-peritoneal bacteria or caecal ligation and puncture. In these last two animal models of sepsis, high serum levels of TNF were not detected.

## RÉSUMÉ

La mortalité, la perte de poids, et la production de TNF ont été étudiées sur des rats rendus tolérants à différents sérotypes O d'endotoxine. Dans deux modèles de sepsis, les taux sériques de TNF et les effets de la tolérance au LPS sur la mortalité ont été investigués. Les résultats montrent une diminution de la réponse de TNF induite par LPS durant la phase précoce de tolérance à LPS, qu'on ait utilisé un type identique ou différent de LPS. Il n'y avait pas de corrélation entre les taux de TNF et la mortalité LPS-induite. Les LPS de faible toxicité et les LPS hautement toxiques ont entraînés des taux de TNF similaires. La tolérance tardive était associée à de faibles taux de TNF LPS-induit, ainsi qu'à un effet léthal identique à celui observé chez des rats intacts. La tolérance précoce a protégé de la mortalité dans les deux modèles utilisés. Dans ces modèles de sepsis, une production de TNF n'a pas pu être démontrée.

## PREFACE

The experimental work for this thesis was done while the candidate was under the supervision of Dr. N.V. Christou in the Department of Surgery, McGill University, from May 1988 to March 1990.

All work contained in this thesis is that of the candidate. The L929 assay was adapted by the candidate with guidance from Dr. H.N. Rode. The assays were performed with help from Ms. Marta Bachetti. Ms. Dayle Eshelby assisted the candidate in the initial knowledge related to the animal work. Dr. M.J. McPhee and Dr. H.N. Rode initiated the candidate in experimental design. Ms. Corinne Lacey and Ms. Bisa Mitrovski, helped the candidate to perform the microbiological aspect of the experiment of caecal ligation and puncture (CLP) and Dr. W. Haupt made significant contributions to the surgical part of those same experiments. Bacteria used in this study were grown and prepared by Ms. Betty Giannias who also made the isolation and morphological characterization of all experimental samples cultured. The ELISA technique was adapted by the candidate with the assistance of Dr. Kushi Abikar. Mr. Ted Yun M.R.C.C. gave the candidate significant assistance to perform the experiments and generous help with some of the ELISA and the L929 cytotoxicity assays. The statistical analysis and the graphics were prepared by the candidate using commercial software. This thesis was prepared by the candidate. Luz María Osorio and Rémi Shneider helped with the Résumé.

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Sánchez-Cantú L, Rode HN, Christou NV. Endotoxin Tolerance is associated with reduced secretion of Tumor Necrosis Factor. *Arch Surg* 1989;124:1432-1436.

Sánchez-Cantú L, McPhee MJ, Christou NV, Rode HN. Lack of correlation between TNF levels and LPS lethal effect. (Abstract) 7th International Congress of Immunology. Berlin, 1989.

Sánchez-Cantú L, Rode HN, Yun T, Christou NV. Late LPS tolerance is related to low levels of TNF but is not related to the specificity of the inducing LPS. (Abstract). 1st Congress, International Endotoxin Society, San Diego, 1990.

Sánchez-Cantú L, Rode HN, Christou NV. Tumor Necrosis Factor alone does not explain the lethal effect of lipopolysaccharide. (Abstract) 10th Annual Meeting. Surgical Infections Society, Cincinnati, 1990.



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## DEDICATION

to **Luz María**, my lovely wife;  
for believing and sharing and carrying and caring with me and for me with endless  
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### ABBREVIATIONS

ABTS.....	2,2'-Azino-bis(3-ethylbenzoline-6-sulfonic acid)
AGEPC.....	Alkyl-acetyl Glycero Phosphocholine
ARDS.....	Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome
BaSO <sub>4</sub> .....	Barium sulphate
BHI.....	Brain-Heart Infusion culture broth
BSA.....	Bovine Serum Albumin
Cat.....	Catalog number
CEFD <sub>50</sub> .....	Chick embryo lethal dose 50
CFU.....	Colony forming units
CK.....	Cytokine
CNS.....	Central Nervous System
CoF.....	Cobra venom Factor
CRP.....	C Reactive Protein
CTA <sub>2</sub> .....	Carbocyclic thromboxane A <sub>2</sub>
DIC.....	Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation
D/R.....	Dose/Response
DTH.....	Delayed Type Hypersensitivity
ELISA.....	Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay
F1.....	First generation subject
FBS.....	Fetal Bovine Serum
FMLP.....	Formyl-Methionyl-Leucyl-Phenylalanine
GI.....	Gastro-intestinal
GM-CSF.....	Granulocyte Monocyte-Colony Stimulating Factor
HBSS.....	Hank's Balanced Salt Solution

<b>HETE</b> .....	Hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid
<b>HSF</b> .....	Histamine-induced suppressor factor
<b>IFN</b> .....	Interferon
<b>IL-1</b> .....	Interleukin 1
<b>IL-2</b> .....	Interleukin 2
<b>IL-6</b> .....	Interleukin 6
<b>im</b> .....	intramuscular
<b>ip</b> .....	intraperitoneal
<b>KDO</b> .....	Keto deoxy octulosonate
<b>KLH</b> .....	Keyhole Lympet Hemocyanin
<b>LD<sub>50</sub></b> .....	50% Lethal dose (75%, 90%, 100%)
<b>LPS</b> .....	Lipopolysaccharide
<b>LT</b> .....	Leukotriene (B, C, D, E)
<b>M</b> .....	molar
<b>2-ME</b> .....	2-Mercaptoethanol
<b>MIF</b> .....	Migration Inhibition Factor
<b>MK</b> .....	Monokine
<b>M<math>\phi</math></b> .....	Macrophage
<b>MOF</b> .....	Multiple Organ Failure
<b>MPL</b> .....	Monophosphoryl lipid A
<b>MPS</b> .....	Mononuclear Phagocytic System
<b>MSH</b> .....	Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone
<b>MSOF</b> .....	Multiple System Organ Failure
<b>MTT</b> .....	3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide
<b>Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub></b> .....	Sodium phosphate, dibasic
<b>NK</b> .....	Natural Killer Cell
<b>NSAIDs</b> .....	Non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs
<b>OD</b> .....	Optical Density
<b>PAF</b> .....	Platelet Activating Factors
<b>PBS</b> .....	Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline
<b>PG</b> .....	Prostaglandin (D, E, F, I)
<b>PGI<sub>2</sub></b> .....	Prostacyclin
<b>PMN</b> .....	Polymorphonuclear leucocyte.
<b>RPMI-1640</b> .....	Rockwell Park Memorial Institute media #1640
<b>sc</b> .....	subcutaneous
<b>SP</b> .....	Substance P

<b>SRS-A</b> .....	Slow-releasing substance of anaphylaxis
<b>rMuTNF-<math>\alpha</math></b> .....	recombinant Murine Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha
<b>TNF</b> .....	Tumor Necrosis Factor
<b>TT</b> .....	Tetanus Toxoid
<b>Tx</b> .....	Thromboxane ( $A_2$ , $B_2$ )
<b>UTI</b> .....	Urinary Tract Infection
<b>VIP</b> .....	Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide

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## ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE

1. In rats, the early phase of endotoxin tolerance is associated with decreased generation of serum TNF levels after a challenge with the same or a different type O-specific endotoxin compared to naive animals.
2. During early endotoxin tolerance, diminished serum TNF levels produced in response to endotoxin have no correlation with increasing levels of anti-LPS antibodies.
3. In naive rats, there is no correlation between peak serum TNF levels and mortality after an intra-peritoneal injection of LPS.
4. LPS from different types of gram-negative bacteria can induce in rats similar peak serum TNF levels whereas their toxicity varies from highly lethal to mildly toxic.
5. The late phase of LPS tolerance is characterized by the presence of high titers of O-specific anti-LPS antibodies and much lower peak serum TNF levels after a challenge with the same or a different type O-specific LPS compared to naive rats.
6. Rats in the late phase of endotoxin tolerance have similar susceptibility to the lethal effects of LPS as the naive animals but decreased sensitivity to the body wasting effect.
7. Early endotoxin tolerance confers high protection from mortality after the intraperitoneal injection of lethal amounts of live *E. coli* in barium sulfate or caecal ligation and puncture.
8. Animal models of infection such as caecal ligation and puncture or intraperitoneal injection of live bacteria are not associated with the high levels of circulating TNF that are seen in the pure endotoxin administration rat model. This finding questions the role of tumor necrosis factor in the mediation of septic shock.

## REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

### BACTERIAL INFECTION AS A PROBLEM IN SURGERY

Since the very early practice of surgery, infection has been and still is one of the unsolved problems in this discipline.

The way infection challenges our skills has varied over the years. In the early times, the cause of death was cardiovascular collapse or acute renal failure as a result of incomplete resuscitative efforts. More recently the Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) under its many synonyms (Baue 1975) was imposing its toll. Nowadays, what we rather see is a late developing pattern of multiple organ failures (Tilney 1973) linked to intraabdominal and pulmonary infections (Fulton 1975) and extended to the full spectrum of Multiple System Organ Failure (MSOF) (Baue 1975; Polk 1977; Fry 1980) which encompasses ARDS, acute renal failure, disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), gastrointestinal tract failure (stress ulcers, hepatic failure or acute acalculous cholecystitis), cardiovascular collapse, metabolic instability and central nervous system dysfunction, all of them sharing a common pathophysiology closely related to microvascular damage seemingly mediated by endogenous products released or produced as response to microbial invasion (Borzotta 1983; Marshall 1988; Kreger 1980).

Sepsis has an incidence of 70,000 to 500,000 cases each year in the United States and some 18,000 of these patients die annually with gram-negative bacteremia (Parrillo 1984). Shock complicates sepsis in about 40% of cases (Parker 1983) and septic shock has a mortality of 30-90% (McCabe 1974; Bone 1989). MSOF on the other hand occurs following 7% to 22% of emergency operations and 30% to 50% of operations for intra-abdominal infection (Bone 1989) and carries a 30% to 100% mortality depending on the number of organs involved (Carrico 1986; Fry 1980; Baue 1980).

*Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, enterococci, and *Staphylococcus aureus* are the most frequently reported pathogens associated with nosocomial infections (Segreti 1989). In Kreger's review of septic patients only in 70% of the patients could the original source of infection be identified and 16% of the positive bacteremia were polymicrobial (Kreger 1980). In another series only 45% of septic

patients were found to be bacteremic (Bone 1989). These patients with overt septic syndrome as well as persistently negative blood cultures are actually very common. The phenomenon was named "nonbacteremic clinical sepsis" by Meakins highlighting the fact that this group of patients had essentially the same clinical course and outcome as that of patients who had demonstrable bacteremia (although Bone reports higher incidence of shock in the bacteremic subgroup, [Bone 1989]), yet no convincing focus of infection could be found (Meakins 1980).

Infection as a microbial phenomenon is the presence of microorganisms invading normally sterile host tissues and requires the demonstration of an infecting organism to be diagnosed, but does not require evidence of a host response. Sepsis on the other hand is a clinical syndrome characterized by fever, tachypnea, tachycardia, leukocytosis, and evidence of inadequate organ function or perfusion; the diagnosis of sepsis does not require the demonstration of a microbial pathogen (Marshall 1990).

The extent of an infection is a complex multifactorial condition determined by the interplay of the host's defense mechanisms and microbial virulence factors. Some failure in local or systemic host defenses must occur for a microbe to cause disease. Once established, bacteria are thought to produce damage in an infected host by two main mechanisms: (1) The production of toxic factors (protein exotoxins and lipopolysaccharide endotoxins). (2) Inducing responses in the host that are harmful to the host tissues and systems (Immunologic injury).

Although there are many examples of immunologic injury resulting from experimental infections in animals and even a few examples in human infections such as rheumatic fever, antigen-antibody complexes causing acute glomerulonephritis and vasculitis, and Delayed-type hypersensitivity reactions. (Howard 1988) a conclusive argument describing the way and weight of the host's response in the pathophysiology of sepsis is not yet available.

The traditional approach to infection treatment is addressed to the agent in the form of antibiotics and passive immunotherapy (Ziegler 1982; Baumgartner 1985), and to the patient with all the life support systems including conventional nutritional support. Enhancement of the immunologic potential of the patient, is only recently

being focused upon as a new and encouraging therapeutical modality (Kotani 1983; Waymack 1984; Bone 1987; Alexander 1988).

Improvement of new therapeutic modalities is of utmost importance considering that the short generation time of microorganisms virtually guarantees that any new antimicrobial chemotherapy will have only a transient period of effectiveness prior to the emergence of microbial resistance. Also modern therapeutic and monitoring techniques with invasive devices, hyperalimentation, aggressive oncologic chemotherapy, the use of immunosuppressive agents and prolonged survival of severely ill, malnourished or extremely old patients have created new and peculiar conditions for the establishment of sepsis in the immunocompromised host that we are not ready to successfully treat with the traditional therapeutic modalities.

To what extent are bacteria and their toxins responsible for the derangements found in sepsis, and what exactly is the role of endogenous mediators in the pathogenesis of the hemodynamic and metabolic catastrophes that ultimately result in septic shock or the MSOF syndrome is still a matter of debate. Nevertheless, increasing interest and knowledge has recently accumulated in this field and a broader picture is becoming available for us.

Future prospects for improved prevention and treatment of surgical infection hinge upon two pivotal issues: (1) Better definition of the mechanisms involved in the compromised host, and (2) advances in methods of modulation of the immune response for enhancement of the patient's defense against contamination that is inevitable from ubiquitous, potential pathogens. The ability to stimulate non-specific host defense is particularly attractive, since this should minimize the capability of microbial invaders to create a resistant niche that has characterized treatment by antibiotics or specific bacterial vaccines (Polk 1981).

## **ENDOGENOUS MEDIATORS OF SEPSIS**

In pathophysiologic terms the essence of shock is cellular damage secondary to tissue hypoxia, which might be a consequence of hypoxemia or hypoperfusion. Blood flow to the peripheral tissues may be compromised by the fall in driving force

(perfusion pressure) and/or by the baroreceptor-induced vasoconstriction aimed at maintaining the systemic pressure and preferential flow to the more essential cerebral and myocardial tissues. However, the vascular beds that do respond to centrally induced vasoconstriction during systemic hypotension, principally viscera and kidney, do so at the expense of their own well-being. If flow deprivation of this tissues is prolonged, local and systemic accumulation of vasodepressor substances may cause these vascular beds to lose their tone, which allows a local increase of flow but further systemic hypotension (Emerson 1974). This vasodilation called vascular decompensation by some and shock by others will cause an even greater fall in the systemic arterial pressure; it is in fact a breakdown in the normal compensatory response to hypotension (Bond 1983; Green 1990; Parrat 1983).

In the course of an infection, stimuli are generated and perceived by different receptors located peripherally or centrally. Part of these stimuli are sensed locally and induce a local or regional inflammatory reaction (Shires 1989). Others will be detected by specialized neural receptors which transmit afferent signals to the central nervous system (CNS). In the CNS inputs are integrated resulting in the production of efferent signals which amount in the stimulation or inhibition of the release of numerous neuroendocrine products that generate physiologic changes and will ultimately direct an attempt to restore cardiovascular stability, to preserve oxygen delivery, to mobilize energy substrates, to recover fluid and electrolyte homeostasis, and to minimize pain (England 1982, Benedict 1978).

The complete setting for the host's response to sepsis constitutes two global groups: (1) the systemic neuroendocrine environment dedicated preferentially to the homeostasis of the cardiovascular and metabolic systems; and (2) the inflammatory mediators whose duties include the setting up of an inflammatory response aimed to limit bacterial invasion and its eradication, and the mechanisms involved in wound healing, and tissue remodeling and repair (Table 1).

## **SYSTEMIC NEUROENDOCRINE ENVIRONMENT**

The loss of effective circulating volume results in the baroreceptor reflex conserving water and salt and increasing total peripheral resistance. This leads to increased secretion of adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH), vasopressin, renin, growth

hormone,  $\beta$ -endorphin and catecholamines (Bereiter 1984 and 1985; England 1986). In turn these neuroendocrine effectors bring about further changes including stimulation of cortisol secretion by the adrenal glands, conversion of angiotensinogen to angiotensin I by renin, stimulation of aldosterone secretion in response to angiotensin II, stimulation of glucagon secretion and inhibition of insulin secretion by the pancreas in response to epinephrine (Claybaugh 1973).

**Table 1. Inflammatory Mediators**

Function	Mediators
Increased microvascular permeability	Histamine, bradykinin, C <sub>3a</sub> , C <sub>4a</sub> , C <sub>5a</sub> , LTC <sub>4</sub> , LTD <sub>4</sub> , PGE <sub>2</sub> , prostacyclin, Hageman factor, HMWK, PAF, serotonin, substance P
Vasodilation	PAF, Histamine, Bradikinin, prostacyclin, VIP
Vasoconstriction	TxA <sub>2</sub> , leukotrienes C and D, C <sub>5a</sub> , LTB <sub>4</sub> , formyl peptides, PGF <sub>2</sub> $\alpha$ , serotonin
Smooth muscle contraction	C <sub>3a</sub> , C <sub>5a</sub> , histamine, LTB <sub>4</sub> , leukotrienes C and D, bradykinin, PAF, serotonin
Increased endothelial cell stickiness	IL-1, TNF- $\alpha$ , endotoxin, LTB <sub>4</sub> , PAF
Platelet aggregation	PAF, TxA <sub>2</sub> , TNF $\alpha$ , serotonin
Phagocytes:	
Recruitment from bone marrow	CSFs, IL-1, C <sub>3e</sub>
Adherence/aggregation	iC <sub>3b</sub> , fibronectin, IgG, PAF, IFN $\alpha$ , $\beta$ 1
Chemotaxis	C <sub>5a</sub> , LTC <sub>4</sub> , LTB <sub>4</sub> , PAF, IL-1, histamine, $\beta$ -endorphin, laminin, fibronectin and elastin, formyl peptides, collagen, lymphocyte-derived chemotactic factor, IFN $\alpha$ , $\beta$ 1
Lysosomal granule release	C <sub>5a</sub> , PAF, formyl peptides
Toxic oxygen product formation	C <sub>5a</sub> , TNF- $\alpha$ , PAF, most chemoattractants, phagocytic particles; interferon- $\gamma$
Phagocytosis	C <sub>3b</sub> , iC <sub>3b</sub> , IgG (Fc portion) fibronectin; interferon- $\gamma$ (increases FcR expression)
Granuloma formation	Interferon- $\gamma$ , IL-1, TNF- $\alpha$
Pyrogens	IL-1 $\alpha$ & $\beta$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , PGE <sub>2</sub> , IL-6, IFN- $\alpha$ & $\gamma$
Pain	PGE <sub>2</sub> , bradykinin, PAF
Acute Phase response	IL-1, TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6

Changes in the concentration of oxygen, hydrogen ions and carbon dioxide, through the activation of peripheral chemoreceptors located in the carotid and the aortic bodies produce a decrease in cardiac sympathetic nervous system activity and an increase in parasympathetic activity which activates the respiratory center leading to an increase in respiratory rate (Davies 1984).



Pain induces secretion of vasopressin, ACTH, endogenous opiates, catecholamines, cortisol, and aldosterone, and changes in activity of the autonomic nervous system (Vaughan 1982).

Changes in the plasma glucose concentration are sensed by receptors in the hypothalamus and in the pancreas. A decrease in the plasma glucose concentration stimulates the release of catecholamines, growth hormone, cortisol, ACTH,  $\beta$ -endorphin, and vasopressin (Curtis 1980). In addition, the secretion of insulin is inhibited by central pathways and by the pancreas itself (Gann 1989; Lilly 1983).

### **ENDOGENOUS OPIOIDS**

Recently, interest in opioid peptides has resulted from the finding that naloxone improves the hemodynamic response and survival in hemorrhagic, septic and spinal shock (Faden 1978; Curtis 1980; Plotnikoff 1985; Wybran 1985). Several endogenous opioids have been characterized. Two pentapeptides: methionine-enkephalin and leucine-enkephaline;  $\beta$ -endorphin which contains 31 amino acids;  $\alpha$ -endorphin with 16, and  $\tau$ -endorphin and dynorphin both 17 amino-acid peptides; all of these share the amino-terminus Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe which is responsible for much of biological activity of these neuropeptides.

Opioid peptides are synthesized in the central nervous system, peripheral nerves, neuroendocrine cells, macrophages and in lymphocytes. Thus, these neuropeptides are considered to allow bidirectional interaction between various cells of the immune system as well as between the nervous and immune system (Smith 1985).

Endogenous opiates have analgesic activity, and cardiovascular, metabolic and neuroendocrine modulating properties. Their precise role in the response to infection and other types of injury remains ill defined at present, nevertheless, they have important immunomodulatory capabilities such as enhancing lymphocyte blastogenesis, increasing the size of the thymus or spleen in rodents, stimulating active T cell rosettes and natural killer cell activity, and increasing neutrophil and macrophage chemotaxis and adherence and neutrophil superoxide production (Van Epp 1987, Sharp 1987). It is believed that in stress, enkephalins modulate the effects of steroid hormones on the immune system (Plotnikoff 1985) and in this

context opioids have been implicated in stress-induced natural killer cell suppression (Shavit 1984). In spite of the high expectations clinically, opiate receptor blockade with naloxone has yielded equivocal results (Tiengo 1980, Peters 1981, Groeger 1983).

## **INFLAMMATORY MEDIATORS**

Many cell types together with soluble serum components and elements of the extracellular matrix are needed to build up a complete local and systemic inflammatory reaction. The leading cell types are the endothelial cells, macrophages and neutrophils; also important are platelets, mast cells, fibroblasts, basophils, eosinophils, T and B lymphocytes and hepatocytes. Nevertheless, macrophages have a privileged role as they can influence almost every aspect of both the immune and inflammatory responses, from acute to delayed hypersensitivity, from the first breach of epithelium to its eventual repair. One of the outstanding capabilities of macrophages is the secretion of some 100 active substances ranging in molecular mass from 32 (superoxide anion) to 440,000 daltons (fibronectin) which allow this cell to play such a central role. Some of the most relevant secretory products for sepsis and shock are listed in Table 2 (adapted from Nathan 1987).

## **COMPLEMENT SYSTEM**

The portion of the complement cascade that affects the hemodynamic status of the host involves the anaphylatoxins  $C_{3a}$ ,  $C_{4a}$  and  $C_{5a}$ . Their biologic activities include increased permeability and dilation of the microvasculature; smooth muscle contraction and release of histamine by basophils and mast cells (Grant 1976). Anaphylatoxins act upon neutrophils increasing their chemotaxis, aggregation, secretion of lysosomal enzymes, oxidative metabolism, adherence to surfaces and expression of  $C_3$  receptors (Becker 1974; Tonnesen 1984; Charo 1986; Hoover 1978). They act upon mononuclear phagocytes to increase chemotaxis, secretion of lysosomal enzymes, oxidative metabolism, expression of  $C_3$  and IgG receptors and generation of Interleukin-1 (Goodman 1982).  $C_{5a}$  may also prompt release of serotonin from platelets (Meuer 1981).  $C_{3a}$  induces release of thromboxane from

macrophages (Hansch 1984), and apparently the effects of human  $C_{5a}$  on vascular permeability is mediated by neutrophils and vasodilatory prostaglandins (Issekutz 1980; Björk 1985; Regal 1981).

Complement components are known to be normal or increased in the acute stages of clinical infection but are often decreased once systemic sepsis and septic shock develop. The massive complement activation seen in septic shock could plausibly exhaust the body's synthetic capacity and explain these kinetics. Furthermore, the extreme increase in complement activation that occurs in sepsis has been correlated with an ultimately poor prognosis (Duchateau 1984; Hammerschmidt 1980; Solomkin 1985; Weinberg 1984).

**Table 2. Secretory Products of Macrophages**

**Polypeptides:**

IL-1 $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\beta$ 1, IFN- $\tau$ , GM-CSF, G-CSF,  $\beta$ -endorphin, Insulin like activity, Epidermal growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, platelet-derived growth factor, Transforming growth factor- $\beta$

**Complement components:**

Classical pathway: C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>5</sub>; Alternative pathway: Factor B, Factor D, properdin  
Inhibitors. C<sub>3b</sub> inactivator,  $\beta$ -1H

Active fragments generated by Macrophages: C<sub>3a</sub>, C<sub>5a</sub>, C<sub>3b</sub>, Bb

**Coagulation factors:**

Intrinsic pathway: IX, X, V, prothrombin. Extrinsic pathway: Factor VII

Surface activities. tissue factor, prothrombinase

Prothrombotic activity. plasminogen activator

**Other enzymes:**

Neutral proteases. Plasminogen activator, elastase, collagenases, angiotensin convertase

Lipases. lipoprotein lipase, phospholipase A<sub>2</sub>; Glucosaminidase. lysozyme; Deaminase.  
arginase

Lysosomal acid hydrolases. proteases, lipases, deoxyribonucleases, phosphatases, glycosidases, sulfatases

**Binding Proteins:**

Fibronectin, Thrombospondin, transferrin, transcobalamin

**Bioactive lipids:**

PGE<sub>2</sub>, PGF<sub>2</sub>, prostacyclin, TxA<sub>2</sub>, LTB<sub>4</sub>, C, D, E, HETE acid, PAF

**Reactive oxygen intermediates:**

Superoxide, hydrogen peroxide, hydroxyl radicals, hypohalous acids

**Reactive nitrogen intermediates:**

Nitrites, nitrates

**Inhibitors of enzymes and cytokines**

Protease inhibitors.  $\alpha$ -2-macroglobulin,  $\alpha$ -1-antiprotease, plasminogen activator inhibitors, plasmin inhibitors, collagenase inhibitor

Phospholipase inhibitor lipomodulin (macroscortin), IL-1 inhibitors

**Low molecular weight inflammatory cytokines:**

Monocyte-derived neutrophil chemotactic factor, IP10,  $\beta$ -Thromboglobulin,

The vasodilatory properties of anaphylatoxins can decrease peripheral resistance and subsequently produce hypotension. Severe shock states have been produced in animal models with the injection of the C<sub>3a</sub> and C<sub>5a</sub> components. Whether the effects of complement are primary, secondary to interactions with other systems, or both is unclear, but as previously mentioned, complement components induce histamine, thromboxane and serotonin secretion, all which possess significant vasoactive properties and, via complement, could certainly alter the hemodynamic balance during sepsis.

Particularly relevant to show the important role of anaphylatoxins MSOF is the experimental evidence (Till 1982 and 1985) suggesting that systemic complement activation can lead to neutrophil dependent acute pulmonary injury. It now appears that oxygen derived free radicals (superoxide anion, hydrogen peroxide, hydroxyl radicals and others) released from complement-activated sequestered neutrophils may play a major pathogenic role in the microvascular damage that lead to increased permeability and pulmonary edema in the ARDS (Simon 1988; Hammerschmidt 1980; Duchateau 1984; Weinberg 1984; Chenoweth 1981).

Bacterial endotoxins can activate complement both by the classic (through an antibody-dependent as well as an antibody-independent mechanism) and the properdin pathways (Mergenhagen 1969, Loos 1974) and it has been suggested that complement activation may be involved in the lethal effects of endotoxins (Spink 1961 and 1964; Gilbert 1962, Polák 1969, From 1970; Garner 1974, Kitzmiller 1972). On the other side, experiments by several groups have shown contradictory results (Muller-Berghaus 1974). Ulevitch concluded that C<sub>3</sub> and terminal components did not play a significant role in the lethality in rabbits caused by bacterial endotoxins (Ulevitch 1975 and 1978), and experiments by Galanos et al have demonstrated that anticomplementary activity of endotoxin is not fundamental for toxicity (Galanos 1971). Nevertheless, these conclusions are still challenged (Brown 1973; Johnson 1971).

It is clear that the interaction of complement with bacterial endotoxins *in vivo* does, at least in part, contribute to the overall host response to endotoxin, yet the precise role of this interaction in the initiation of pathophysiologic changes leading to tissue injury remains to be defined (McPhaden 1985).

## COAGULATION SYSTEM AND PLASMA KININS

Four major plasma protein systems contribute to the host's defense and, at times, participate in the development of inflammatory tissue injury. These are the contact activation (CAS), the coagulation, the fibrinolytic, and the complement systems.

The CAS is composed by Hageman factor, plasma prekallikrein, high-molecular weight kininogen (HMWK), and coagulation Factor XI. Secondary reactions with plasminogen, Factor VII of the extrinsic coagulation system, and complement proteins extend the physiologic effects of the contact system (Kozin 1988).

Two kinins, bradykinin and kallidin are produced through the action of the serine protease kallikrein on high and low molecular weight kininogens in plasma and in tissues respectively. Kallikrein exists in plasma in an inactive form as prekallikrein, whose activation depends upon activation of the clotting system through Hageman factor. All these reactions are tightly regulated by a series of inhibitory plasma proteins; C<sub>1</sub> inhibitor,  $\alpha$ 2 plasma inhibitor,  $\alpha$ 2 macroglobulin, antithrombin III, and  $\alpha$ 1 antitrypsin inhibitor (Miller 1973; Kozin 1988).

The kinins are potent vasodilators that increase capillary permeability, produce edema, evoke pain, increase bronchial resistance, and enhance glucose clearance. As such they are important mediators of the inflammatory response. They participate in the regulation of fluid and electrolytes by the kidney by causing renal vasodilation, reduction in renal blood flow, increase formation of renin and an increase in sodium and water retention (Cochrane 82).

Hageman factor activates the classical complement pathway through C<sub>1</sub> activation or it can be activated by kallikrein which generates a C<sub>5a</sub>-like chemotactic peptide from C<sub>5</sub> (Wiggins 1981). Bradikinin has been shown to augment arachidonic acid release from cells (McGiff 1976), and on fibroblasts and endothelial cells it induces prostacyclin, PGE<sub>2</sub>, and PAF production (McIntyre 1985).

Increased plasma concentrations of kallikrein and bradykinin and decreased plasma concentrations of prekallikrein have been noted during hemorrhagic, endotoxic and septic shock. Furthermore, these changes appeared to correlate with survival and severity of injury, since there is a gradual increase in the concentrations of

prekallikrein in survivors but not in nonsurvivors and a greater activity of kallikrein in patients with septic shock than in patients with sepsis without hypotension (Aasen 1983).

Studies in humans and in non-human primates (Kimball 1972; Nies 1973) have also shown that blood bradykinin levels increase following the intravenous injection of endotoxin, which suggested the generation of activated Hageman factor by endotoxin. Kimball et al, (1973) demonstrated that injection of *S. abortus equi* endotoxin into humans produced a significant elevation in blood bradykinin levels within 30 to 60 minutes after injection. These authors suggested that bradykinin may serve as a trigger vasodilator in endotoxin shock. Other studies have shown that in dogs and in rabbits total blood kininogen also decreases following endotoxin injection.

Mason and Colman observed decreased levels of plasma Hageman factor and prekallikrein in patients with disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) in whom endotoxemia was thought to be responsible for initiating the coagulative changes (Mason 1971). Robinson (1975) studied patients undergoing cystoscopy and trans-urethral resection of the prostate and measured blood levels of endotoxin. Positive serum endotoxin or gram-negative bacteremia were associated with decreased levels of plasma prekallikrein and decreased vascular resistance.

Therefore, experimental evidence as well as clinical studies suggest that Hageman factor activation results from exposure of the host to endotoxin. Although direct biochemical measurements of Hageman factor activation or activation of its substrates, are essential to fully evaluate the role of these proteins in endotoxin-induced injury (Shen 1973).

Plasma kallikrein, coagulation factors and fibrinolytic factors can interact with other plasma proteins like the complement system (Ghebrehiwet 1983), prostaglandins (McGiff 1976; Hong 1976), prostacyclin (Moncada 1979; Roscher 1984), platelet activating factors (McIntyre 1985). This implies that the contact activation system elements are principal subjects in the pathophysiology of inflammation and sepsis.

## **VASOACTIVE INTESTINAL PEPTIDE (VIP) AND SUBSTANCE P**

VIP is a recently characterized 28-amino acid peptide with the capacity to affect vascular tone (Said 1970). Originally isolated from the small intestine, it is now known to be widely distributed in both central and peripheral nerves and is also produced by non-beta cells of the endocrine pancreas. Endotoxic animal preparations have shown a significant elevation of VIP, and VIP is a known potent vasodilator. It is postulated that this peptide may also mediate the hemodynamic septic response, although clinical corroboration is lacking at this time (Bjornson 1977). Several modulatory effects of VIP on various aspects of the inflammatory response suggest that VIP is in fact an anti-inflammatory neuropeptide (Aguayo 1989).

Substance P (SP) is an 11 amino acid peptide, localized in the C fibers of sensory nerve endings innervating connective tissue, smooth muscle, and blood vessels of several species, including man (Lundberg 1987). SP causes contraction of smooth muscle, constriction of pulmonary airways leading to bronchoconstriction, and permeability of microvasculature to increase and stimulates epithelial cell secretion in the lungs and the gut. SP also acts indirectly by stimulating the release of mediators such as leukotrienes and histamine. SP stimulates monocyte chemotaxis, induces generation of  $\text{TxA}_2$ , oxygen radicals and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , activates lysosomal enzyme release and stimulates phagocytosis of yeast cells (Shanahan 1985).

## **HISTAMINE**

Histamine, 2-(4-imidazolyl)ethylamine or  $5\beta$ -aminoethylimidazole is formed by decarboxylation of the amino acid histidine. Most histamine is stored preformed in cytoplasmic granules of mast cells and basophils in close association with proteoglycans comprising the granule matrix (Metcalf 1979).

Activation of human mast cells by antigen bridging of membrane-bound IgE initiates a cascade of membrane lipid metabolic events leading to the opening of calcium channels, cleavage of arachidonic acid from phosphatidylcholine, and release of secretory granules containing preformed granule constituents such as histamine (White 1988). Other substances also cause mast cells or basophils to

release histamine. Among them  $C_{3a}$ ,  $C_{5a}$ , substance P, neurotensin, IL-1 and ATP. Once released histamine diffuses rapidly into the surrounding tissues and appears in draining blood within minutes.

Histamine mediates bronchoconstriction, increased myocardial contractility, intestinal contraction, gastric secretion, increased cardiac rate and pulse pressure reflecting diastolic hypotension, increased vascular permeability and small vessel vasodilation with edema formation (Keahey 1985; Yurt 1986).

Histamine has long been implicated in the pathophysiology of tissue injury and shock and elevated concentrations have been demonstrated after hemorrhagic shock, septic shock, endotoxemia and thermal and nonthermal injury (Hinshaw 1960). The highest levels of histamine seem to occur with sepsis and endotoxemia (Markley 1975). Following the administration of endotoxin to dogs, there is an immediate explosive release of histamine that correlates with the amount of endotoxin administered and with the decline in arterial blood pressure and circulating platelets consequent to the administration of endotoxin.

Serum histamine levels have been inversely correlated with survival in patients with septic shock and after endotoxin administration in rats (Nagy 1986). By contrast, histamine administration could increase the survival rate in endotoxic shock (Fox 1962). Released histamine also failed to worsen or improve vascular and metabolic responses to endotoxin (Jacobson 1964), and long-term infusion of histamine did not elicit pulmonary oedema (Olson 1983). A reliable demonstration of histamine release under *in vivo* septic-endotoxic shock conditions has however not sufficiently been fulfilled mainly because the assays to measure it as well as the design of the studies have not been solid enough (Neugebauer 1987).

Histamine induces the elaboration of several lymphokines that accounts for its immunomodulator role. Among those lymphokines is Histamine-induced Suppressor Factor (HSF) made by suppressor T cells which inhibits lymphocyte proliferation, NK activity, and antibody production (Rocklin 1977 and 1978). Another histamine induced T-cell factor inhibits Migration Inhibition Factor (MIF) production (Center 1983; Reichman 1979).



## PLATELET ACTIVATING FACTORS

This family of acetylated phosphoglycerides together with the eicosanoids form a group known as lipid autacoids (substances with autopharmacologic properties and potent local activity). Both PAF and eicosanoids are rapidly generated after cell stimulation or perturbation. PAF is 1-alkyl-2(R)-acetyl-glycero-3-phosphocholine (AGEPC) composed of at least 16 molecular species containing saturated or unsaturated alkyl or acyl chains, or even a polar head group other than choline; each may have distinct although related biological effects.

PAF is a potent mediator of anaphylaxis and hyperreactivity and may be involved in shock, graft rejection, post-ischemic disorders, ovariectomy and certain central nervous system disorders. It is also a relevant modulator of the immune response (Pinckard 1988). The complete biological role of PAF is unknown because the majority of studies characterizing its biological activities utilize only one or possibly two AGEPC derivatives. Also, differences in the rates of synthesis and degradation of the various molecular species of PAF could be anticipated and expected to dramatically influence their biological potentials.

Sensitized basophils and mast cells release PAF in response to antigen or anti-IgE challenge. The release of PAF is the response of monocytes and macrophages to phagocytic stimuli such as bacteria, opsonized zymosan or immune complexes, and to the calcium ionophores A23187, while neutrophils additionally respond to phorbol esters and  $C_{5a}$ ,  $C_{5a}$ -des-Arg and formyl-methionyl-leucyl-phenylalanine (FMLP) releasing PAF. Eosinophils also respond to A23187,  $C_{5a}$ , FMLP. Endothelial cells release PAF in response to A23187, thrombin, vasopressin, angiotensin II, anti-Factor VIII and interleukin 1 (Braquet 1987).

PAF is able to mimic the shock state. It produces hypotension, bronchoconstriction, thrombocytopenia granulocytopenia, and monocytopenia, and death in the guinea-pig. (Vargaftig 1980; Bessin 1983; McManus 1980). It is a potent agonist not only for most inflammatory cells, but also for vascular smooth muscle and endothelial cells as well as renal mesangial and epithelial cells. *In vitro* it causes aggregation, chemotaxis and chemokinesis, and effects the release of both specific and azurophil granule contents, including lysozyme, lactoferrin,  $\beta$ -glucuronidase and

myeloperoxidase from isolated rabbit and human PMN through lipoxygenase stimulation of arachidonate metabolism (15-HETE [hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid] and LTB<sub>4</sub>). It initiates the respiratory burst in human neutrophils (Smith 1984). The monocyte, eosinophil and vascular endothelial cell are also stimulated by AGEPC increasing vascular permeability through post-capillary venular endothelial cell activation (Yasaka 1982).

In man, the intracutaneous administration of AGEPC results in dramatic and potent inflammatory actions (blanching of the skin, pain and pruritus) followed by the development of erythema and edema (Pinckard 1980). AGEPC induced vasoactivity appears to be platelet-, PMN-, H1 receptor- and cyclooxygenase products-independent (Archer 1985). In several species including nonhuman primates, AGEPC induces hemoconcentration and generalized vascular leakage of plasma proteins (Saunders 1987). It has a potent negative inotropic effect in isolated perfused guinea pig and rat hearts; it induces a dose-related decrease in coronary flow and impairs atrioventricular conduction (Kenzora 1984). In dogs, PAF induces hypotension, myocardial contractility impairment, decreased coronary artery flow, systemic and pulmonary vascular changes, renal dysfunction, hemoconcentration and metabolic acidosis (Bessin 1983).

In the rat, shock triggered by ip injections of  $2 \times 10^8$  CFU of *E. coli* (Inarrea 1985) or *S. enteritidis* (Braquet 1989) or endotoxin (Dobber 1985) produced a dose-dependent increase in vascular permeability accompanied by the appearance of PAF. And in *S. enteritidis* endotoxin-induced shock, the PAF antagonist BN 52021 confers a significant dose-dependent inhibition of lethality associated with a reduced increase in body temperature suggesting that BN 52021 has an effect on the release of IL-1. (Etienne 1985).

Sun et al (Sun 1988) have demonstrated that TNF induced bowel necrosis is due to PAF release and can be prevented by pretreatment with the PAF antagonist SRI 63-119. High doses of PAF could also induce necrosis and PAF was synergistic with LPS and with TNF.

All this elements have situated PAF among the most important mediators of septic shock and of inflammatory reactions in general.

## ARACHIDONIC ACID METABOLITES

Five major eicosanoid (20 carbon, cyclic fatty acids metabolites of arachidonic acid) groups are described. The classic prostaglandins (1)  $\text{PGD}_2$ ,  $\text{PGE}_2$ ,  $\text{PGF}_2$ ; (2) prostacyclin ( $\text{PGI}$  and its stable metabolite  $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$ ) and (3) the thromboxanes ( $\text{TxA}_2$  and its stable metabolite  $\text{TxB}_2$ ) are generated through the cyclooxygenase pathway. On the other hand, (4) the Hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acids (HETE) and (5) the Leukotrienes are products of the lipoxygenase pathway.

$\text{PGE}$  and  $\text{PGF}$  have direct actions on smooth-muscle cells.  $\text{PGE}_2$  causes coronary vasodilation and contraction of the uterus.  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  is a universal vasoconstrictor that exerts potent effects in the coronary, the mesenteric and the renal circulation important in the pathogenesis of circulatory shock (Fink 1985).  $\text{PGE}_2$  has also important immunologic functions. It inhibits clonal proliferation of the committed granulocyte-macrophage stem cell, augments phagocytosis, increases the numbers of Con A and Fc receptors, and induces T suppressor cell activity (Stenson 1980; Chouaib 1984).

Thromboxane and Prostacyclin ( $\text{PGI}_2$ ) play a major role in the control of blood flow. On the one side, thromboxane is a potent vasoconstrictor and platelet aggregator (Ogletree 1987) and is responsible for repair of vascular injury. Thromboxane  $\text{A}_2$  ( $\text{TxA}_2$ ) and Carbocyclic thromboxane  $\text{A}_2$  ( $[\text{CTA}_2]$  a stable analog of  $\text{TxA}_2$ ) render lysosomal membranes leaky.  $\text{TxA}_2$  has also been implicated in tumor cell growth and metastasis (Honn 1983), and in the pathophysiology of preeclampsia (Walsh 1985).  $\text{PGI}_2$  on the other hand, is a potent inhibitor of platelet aggregation (Bertele 1984), and has vasodilator, bronchodilator and membrane-stabilizing effects which evidence a relevant anti-shock role for prostacyclin. Its primary source appears to be vascular endothelium.

In sepsis, endotoxin, thrombin, bradykinin, angiotensin II,  $\text{C}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_5$  all augment the biosynthesis of  $\text{PGI}_2$  and epinephrine, histamine, and serotonin may also stimulate  $\text{PGI}_2$  biosynthesis.

Leukotrienes (LT) are potent mediators of inflammation. They are produced by a host of cell types including the pulmonary parenchymal cells, macrophage, mast cells, leukocytes, and several types of connective tissue and smooth muscle cells,

particularly vascular smooth muscle (Ford-Hutchinson 1985).  $\text{LTB}_4$  causes chemotaxis of eosinophils and macrophages; it promotes the release of lysosomal hydrolases from various cell lines and induces edema, capillary dilation, and transudation of fluid across vessel walls (Staub et al 1985). In contrast to  $\text{LTB}_4$ , the peptide leukotrienes ( $\text{LTC}_4$ ,  $\text{LTD}_4$ ,  $\text{LTE}_4$ ) are more active as stimulators of smooth muscle contraction (Feuerstein 1987).

Plasma concentration of eicosanoids are increased during septic and endotoxic shock and following thermal and nonthermal injury (Fink 1985). They have been implicated in pathologic conditions such as ARDS (Brockmann 1986, Deby-Dupont 1987), myocardial ischemia (Smith 1980) vascular occlusion (Bridenbaugh 1976, Flynn 1976), and hemorrhagic (Collier 1973), endotoxic (Aderem 1986, Anderson 1972, Carmona 1984, Casey 1985), septic (Ball 1986, Fink 1985, Halushka 1985) and cardiopulmonary bypass shock.

Intravenous injection of LPS results in elevated plasma levels of  $\text{PGE}_2$  (Cook 1980),  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ ,  $\text{TxB}_2$ , and 6-keto  $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$  (Anderson 1972). Levels of  $\text{TxB}_2$  typically rise dramatically within minutes after the injection of endotoxin, whereas levels of 6-keto  $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$  tend to increase more gradually. This observation has led to the hypothesis that thromboxane mediates the acute pulmonary hypertension characteristic of early endotoxic shock (Winn 1983), whereas the vasodilator effect of  $\text{PGI}_2$  may contribute to peripheral vascular collapse later in the shock syndrome.

The Slow-releasing substance of anaphylaxis (SRS-A) is a member of the leukotriene family, specifically  $\text{LTC}_4$  and  $\text{LTD}_4$ . This substance is produced by stimulated neutrophils, eosinophils and some macrophages in different tissues. In animals it can cause bronchospasm and increased vascular permeability (Taylor 1983; Dahlen 1981; Samuelsson 1983) and increase adherence of neutrophils to surfaces (Goetzl 1983).

The finding that massive doses of aspirin enhanced the survival rate of endotoxin-treated dogs has been confirmed using other non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), lower doses, other species and models of bacteremia using live *E. coli* organisms (Jaffe 1988; Revhaug 1988). The effect of these NSAIDs on survival, hemodynamic values, systemic coagulopathy, and ischemic sequel have been assessed, generally with positive results. Their major mode of action is inhibition of

cyclooxygenase with reduced synthesis of prostaglandins and thromboxanes. Also, fatty acid-deficient rats which release limited amounts of endogenous prostanoids are less susceptible to endotoxic shock and have a markedly reduced mortality (Cook 1980). Acute arachidonic acid supplementation given to these rats restores lethal sensitivity to the endotoxin, which can be reversed with the thromboxane synthetase inhibitor, 7-imidazole-heptanoic acid (Ball 1986). Imidazole therapy diminished the permeability edema of acute respiratory failure resulting from complement activation (Krausz 1982) and prevents formation of the toxic myocardial depressant factor. These results lead to the conclusion that  $\text{TxA}_2$  is probably involved in the pathophysiologic processes resulting in ischemic myocardial damage (Lefer 1985).

### **INTERLEUKIN-1.**

Microbial invasion, tissue injury, immunologic reactions, and inflammatory processes induce a constellation of host responses collectively referred to as the acute-phase response characterized by changes in metabolic, endocrinologic, neurologic, and immunologic functions. Most of these changes are observed within hours to days after the onset of infection or inflammation. The acute-phase response has the outstanding characteristic of being a generalized host reaction irrespective of the localized or systemic nature of the inciting disease. Interleukin-1, IL-6 and TNF are the main integrators of the acute-phase response (Ramadori 1988).

IL-1 previously known as Lymphocyte Activating Factor (LAF) is a 12,000 to 15,000-dalton polypeptide that augments the mitogenic response of thymocytes and promotes thymocyte helper functions and B cell antibody production. IL-1 induces fever (Atkins 1960), activates and stimulates the production of IL-2 by T cells (Mizel 1982), induces fibroblast growth (Krane 1982) and stimulates hepatocytes to produce acute phase proteins (Oppenheim 1982).

IL-1 is primarily produced by mononuclear phagocytic cells: blood monocytes, phagocytic lining cells of the liver and spleen and other tissue macrophages, keratinocytes, gingival and corneal epithelial cells, renal mesangial cells, and brain astrocytes (Dinarello 1984). Nearly all infections, immunologic reactions, and inflammatory processes stimulate mononuclear-cell phagocytes to synthesize and

release IL-1. Some of the IL-1 that is synthesized remains associated with the plasma membrane and induces changes in local tissues without producing systemic responses (Dinarello 1988).

IL-1 affects nonleukocytic targets, such as the liver, pancreas, bone, muscle fibroblasts, and brain (Dinarello 1984) and is thought to have a role in tissue remodeling by inducing mitogenic activity on fibroblasts and smooth muscle (Rainess 1989), bone resorption (Gowen 1983), and stimulation of synovial cell prostaglandin and collagenase synthesis in tissue culture (Mizel 1981). IL-1 initiates fever by inducing an abrupt increase in the synthesis of PGE<sub>2</sub> in the anterior hypothalamus (Dinarello 1982). It promotes an increase in the number and immaturity of circulating neutrophils, apparently by direct action on the bone marrow. IL-1 is chemotactic for neutrophils and T cells, and local concentrations of IL-1 in inflammatory sites probably contribute to cellular infiltration (Lugler 1983), increase in binding of human B and T lymphocytes to endothelial cells (Cavender 1986) and synthesis and cell surface expression of procoagulant activity in human vascular endothelium (Bevilacqua 1984).

Administration of human IL-1 or a homogeneous preparation of monocyte-derived IL-1 to mice and rats increased blood levels of ACTH and glucocorticoids. TNF, IL-2 and  $\tau$ -interferon had no such effects at equivalent doses (Basedovsky 1986).

Like TNF, IL-1 can also suppress (although not completely as TNF does) lipoprotein lipase activity apparently through a different mechanism (Beutler 1985), and it is cytotoxic for several tumor cell lines (Onozaki 1985). IL-1 alone or in combination with other cytokines (TNF, IFN- $\tau$ ) increases antibacterial resistance in different animal models (Kurtz 1989; Minami 1988; Cross 1989).

Rabbits given a single intravenous injection of recombinant human IL-1 $\beta$  rapidly develop decreased systemic arterial pressure with the lowest levels after 50-60 minutes, systemic vascular resistance and central venous pressure fall while cardiac output and heart rate increase. Ibuprofen prevents these responses, and the combination of IL-1 with TNF at low doses results in a profound shock-like state. Ibuprofen prevents the hemodynamic, leukocyte and platelet changes induced by the low-dose cytokine combinations (Dinarello 1989).

In rabbits, IL-1 has been detected in the circulation as an endogenous pyrogen following the injection of submicrogram amounts of endotoxin, other pyrogenic toxins and synthetic adjuvants (Dinarello 1988).

In brief, the multiple biological properties of IL-1 seem to fall into two categories: (a) abrupt changes such as fever, hemodynamic shock, increased slow-wave sleep, sodium excretion, ACTH and insulin release, and degranulation of eosinophils and basophils; and (b) slow-onset changes such as hepatic protein synthesis, production of growth factors, cell proliferation, cytotoxicity, and induction of synthesis of a variety of enzymes and structural proteins. The lymphokines IL-2, interferons, IL-4 and IFN- $\beta$ 2 (IL-6) are in the latter category. Finally, the proinflammatory action of IL-1 is closely linked with the pathophysiology of septic shock.

### **INTERLEUKIN-6**

Interleukin-6 was first identified by Gauldie and co-workers (Gauldie 1987). The mature form is a 184 amino acid peptide with glycosylation at both N- and O-linked sites (Hirano 1986) and has about 23 to 32 kilodalton molecular weight.

IL-6 also known as interferon- $\beta$ 2 (IFN- $\beta$ 2), hybridoma plasmacytoma-growth factor (HGF), hepatocyte-stimulating factor (HSF), B cell stimulating factor 2 (BSF-2) and 26K protein has antiviral activities, stimulates hybridoma and plasmacytoma growth, stimulates hepatocytes and B cells. IL-6 is also believed to stimulate macrophage differentiation, to stimulate multipotential colony formation in hematopoietic stem cells and to induce neural differentiation (Kishimoto 1989).

T cells, macrophages, fibroblasts, myeloma cells and other transformed cells can produce IL-6 in response to different type of stimuli including endotoxin (Heflgot 1988), live bacteria (de Man 1989), RNA and DNA viruses (Tamm 1989), IL-1 (Sironi 1989), TNF (McIntosh 1989), IL-2 (Jablons 1989), IL-4 (Kupper 1989), lymphotoxin, and IFN- $\beta$ 1. As would therefore be expected, IL-6 levels increase rapidly when the body is invaded by an infectious agent or injured. It has actually been detected in blood from patients with gram-positive and gram-negative bacteremia, meningitis and acute trauma, and also in synovial fluids from inflammatory arthropaties (Tamm 1989, Waage 1989a).

Some of IL-6 activities overlap those of IL-1 and TNF, and similarly, IL-6 is considered a major immune and inflammatory mediator. It is released coordinately with IL-1 and TNF from macrophages. Also, IL-1 or TNF can induce IL-6, TNF can induce IL-1, and IL-1 can induce IL-1.

Fever and the acute phase proteins  $\alpha_1$ -acid glycoprotein, C<sub>3</sub>, factor B, serum amyloid A, serum amyloid P, C reactive protein and hemopexin and haptoglobin in the rat are produced by the three cytokines, but only IL-6 decreases albumin and transferrin production and increases production of  $\alpha_1$ -antichymotrypsin.  $\alpha_2$ -macroglobulin,  $\alpha_1$ -proteinase inhibitor, ceruloplasmin, C<sub>1</sub> esterase inhibitor, contrapsin, cystein proteinase inhibitor, fibrinogen, and haptoglobin and hemopexin in humans (Durum 1989, Gauldie 1989). Interestingly, IL-6 response is controlled by the lipopolysaccharide gene, *Lps* and its production is as expected, markedly decreased in the HeJ mice (de Man 1989).

The physiologic and physiopathologic role of IL-6 in inflammation and sepsis is yet to be ascertained. So far it is believed that the pattern of the acute phase proteins synthesized by liver cells may be accurately tuned by the action of various inflammatory cytokines with IL-6 as the main signal and IL-1, TNF and IFN- $\gamma$  as accessory signals or modulators. In such a way, the organism may achieve the most effective homeostatic response to infection and inflammation due to the broad spectrum of biological activities of the acute phase proteins (Koj 1989).

### INTERFERON GAMMA

IFN- $\gamma$  was the first secretory product of T cells to be discovered and cloned on the basis of its ability to interfere with viral replication in fibroblasts. It is a polypeptide (143 amino acids) with no homology with IFN- $\alpha$  or IFN- $\beta$  which are not T cell products as IFN- $\gamma$  is. It exists as a glycosylated molecule with a molecular weight by gel filtration ranging from 40 to 70 kD, although, on reducing SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis 20 and 25 kD forms are observed (Yip 1982).

IFN- $\gamma$  is produced by conditions known to cause the activation of T lymphocytes: mitogens, specific antigens, anti-lymphocyte sera and alloantigens in the Mixed Lymphocyte Culture [MLC] reaction (Kirchner 1984).



Its effects on macrophages seem to be more central to the chief physiologic functions of these cells than for any other cell type (Nathan 1988). Upon binding its receptor, IFN- $\tau$  induces synthesis of several proteins (2'5'oligoadenylate synthetase, protein kinases, nucleases) that are important for the development of the antimicrobial state (Lengyel 1982). IFN- $\tau$  activates macrophages as shown by increased metabolic functions; enhanced phagocytosis; acquisition of cytotoxicity against tumor cells; expression of the class I and II histocompatibility antigens (Basham 1983; Pace 1983); increased secretion of reactive oxygen intermediates, and increases resistance to a host of gram-positive, gram-negative, protozoa, chlamidia, and fungi in different cell populations (Nathan 1988). IFN- $\tau$  also increases macrophage production of IL-1 (Arenzana-Seisdedos 1985), TNF (Nedwin 1985), C<sub>2</sub> and factor B (Strunk 1985), plasminogen activator (Collart 1986), eicosanoids (Boraschi), and other mediators. Other complex functions of macrophages induced with IFN- $\tau$  include inhibition of migration (Thurman 1985) and the formation of giant cells (Weinberg 1985). The enormous spectrum of actions attributed to some of these mediators, especially interleukin-1 and TNF disclose the potential impact of the secretion of IFN- $\tau$  (Nathan 1987).

Alteration of the IFN- $\tau$  paracrine pathway of macrophage activation are associated with some of the most prevalent of the serious, chronic infectious diseases, such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Murray 1986), lepromatous leprosy (Nathan 1986), visceral leishmaniasis (Carvalho 1985), and possibly tuberculosis (Vilcek 1986), and in experimental animals rickettsia and schistosomes (Hamilton 1986). Interferons in general and  $\tau$ -interferon in particular may also be immunosuppressive (Merigan 1983).

### **INTERFERON ALPHA AND BETA-1**

Molecular cloning of macrophage derived interferons ( $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ 1) has revealed at least 20 subtypes of IFN- $\alpha$  grouped into class I (18 Kd) and II (20 Kd) based on their structure (Weissman 1986) and two of IFN- $\beta$  (20 kD).

In vitro activated macrophages produce predominantly IFN- $\alpha$  but they also secrete low levels of IFN- $\beta$ 1. Viruses and many nonviral agents such as polynucleotides and bacterial, fungal, parasitic, mycobacterial agents or their products can induce IFN-

$\alpha, \beta 1$  to be produced by a wide variety of cell types including fibroblasts, macrophages, T and B lymphocytes and endothelial and epithelial cells (Fiedman 1988).

Macrophages from endotoxin-resistant HeJ mice do not produce interferon after endotoxin exposure and are highly susceptible to viral infection. This suggests that "natural resistance" to virus infection is mediated by endogenous interferon production which occurs in response to stimuli, such as endotoxin (Bocci 1987).

IFN- $\alpha, \beta 1$  have antiviral activities; they suppress the proliferation and often concomitantly promote the differentiation of normal and tumor cell types (Chen 1987) and also can counteract the mitogenic activity of a number of other growth factors (Moore 1984). Their effects on macrophages include increasing accessory cell, bactericidal and tumoricidal functions (Chen 1987). They promote differentiation of macrophage, cell enlargement, increased adherence, spreading, pseudopod formation and vacuolization. They also increase the synthesis of lysosomal enzymes and expression of receptors for the Fc portion of immunoglobulin. These in turn promotes increased phagocytosis of immune complexes and increases capacity to lyse antibody-coated bacteria, parasites, and tumor cells by antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity reactions (Vilcek 1985). IFN- $\alpha, \beta 1$  also inhibits the migration of macrophages and is therefore said to exhibit macrophage migration inhibitory activity. Finally, IFN- $\beta 1$  enhances macrophage production of IL-1 and TNF that augment lymphocyte activation (Rhodes 1986).

#### **TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR ALPHA**

TNF was discovered based on its ability to induce hemorrhagic necrosis in certain tumors in vivo (Carswell 1975) which raised great hope for its use in cancer therapy. It was independently discovered as cachectin, when it was detected during parasitic disease in rabbits infected with *Trypanosoma brucei* (Rouzer 1980) which became cachectic. The capacity of TNF to inhibit lipoprotein lipase (Kawakami 1981) lead to the assumption that the wasting effect seen in the rabbit model could be secondary to the presence of TNF. Once isolated, purified and the gene cloned, it was demonstrated that cachectin and TNF were identical proteins (Beutler 1986a).

The demonstration that TNF/cachectin is capable of inducing many of the deleterious effects of endotoxin shock (Beutler 1985e, Tracey 1986) finally helped to ascend TNF to the level of the cytokine of the 80's.

TNF is produced mainly by activated macrophages but other cells such as T cells (Steffen 1988) and T cell lines (Sung 1988a), B cells (Sung 1988b) and B cell lines (Williamson 1983), mast cells and natural killer cells can also produce it (Cuturi 1987). Its mature peptide is 157 amino acids (MW 17,356 dalton). No N-glycosylation sites are present but TNF binding to lentil lectin has been reported (Rubin 1985).

Priming macrophages *in vivo* with agents such as *Bacillus Calmette-Guerin* (Old 1985), *C. parvum* (Green 1977, Satomi 1981) *C. granulorum*, or zymosan (Carswell 1975) or *in vitro* with interferon- $\gamma$  (Gifford 1987) increase the capacity of LPS to induce TNF *in vitro*. Interferon- $\gamma$ , low concentrations of PGE<sub>2</sub> (Renz 1988), GM-CSF, CSF-1, and TNF itself are also reported to promote TNF synthesis and/or release from the activated macrophage. In contrast, compounds toxic for the macrophages (carragenan), or lysosomal inhibitors such as trypan blue (Satomi 1981), and other compounds like PGE<sub>1</sub>, theophylline, isoproterenol, high concentration of PGE<sub>2</sub> (Renz 1988) and hydrocortisone or dexamethasone (Satomi 1981, Beutler 1986b, Waage 1987) decrease TNF production induced by LPS.

TNF is one of the major endotoxin-inducible secretory proteins. It constitutes 1-5% of the total protein secreted by stimulated RAW 264.7 cells (Beutler 1985c). According to Mathison, more than 5  $\mu$ g of TNF per mL of serum is found, and an estimated total of 130  $\mu$ g TNF are released into the plasma compartment 30-200 minutes after injection of 10  $\mu$ g of LPS into rabbits (Mathison 1988). Although endotoxin is the premier inducer of TNF, other inducers have been reported including muramyl dipeptide (Kidahl 1985), other bacterial products (Männel 1987; Fast 1989), protozoan products (Rouzer 1980), Poly inosinate-Poly cytidylate (Bloksma 1983), mitogens and viruses (Aderka 1986; Nedwin 1985).

TNF can be detected in peripheral blood within 15 minutes after LPS injection into animals (Green 1977) or humans (Michie 1988). Serum levels reach a maximum between one and two hours and decline thereafter (Gifford 1987). *C. parvum* primed mice produce 200 times as much TNF than non-primed ones after

equivalent doses of LPS (25  $\mu$ g) (Flick 1986a). Once produced, TNF is cleared from the plasma with a half-life of 6.5 to 10.5 minutes, and has a volume of distribution consistent with the extracellular space (Beutler 1985d, Flick 1986b, Mathison 1988). TNF activity can also be detected in peritoneal exudate after 2 hours of LPS injection but in Satomi's report it was lower than that of sera (Satomi 1981).

Receptors with high affinity ( $K_a = 10^{10}$ ) for TNF are present at up to 10,000 copies per cell in normal tissues (Beutler 1985). The action of TNF is powerfully augmented by interferon  $\tau$  on several target cell types, at least partially through increasing TNF receptor expression (Aggarwal 1985).

Lymphotoxin (LT or TNF- $\beta$ ), is the lymphokine counterpart for TNF- $\alpha$ /Cachectin. It is a T cell product related to the DTH reaction with capacity to kill rat embryo fibroblasts (Ruddle 1967). LT induction is antigen specific but not its effect which is mediated through binding to the same receptor as TNF- $\alpha$ . Both cytokines (TNF- $\alpha$  & LT) have a 35% amino acid homology in the mouse and 28% in the human. LT is believed to share most of the biological properties of TNF- $\alpha$  and its main function is considered to be mediation of cytolytic T cell killing of antigen bearing cells (Paul 1988).

The biological effects of TNF relevant to the shock state, include: on adipocytes, diminished lipoprotein lipase activity (Rouzer 1980); on endothelial cells, increased leukocyte adhesiveness, procoagulant activity and increased IL-1 and GM-CSF synthesis (Cavender 1987, Bevilacqua 1986, Gamble 1985, Nawroth 1986); on hepatocytes, secretion of acute phase reactants such as C-reactive protein, and transferrin (Andus 1988). On the central nervous system, it induces fever and slow-wave sleep (Kawasaki 1989; Beutler 1989; Dinarello 1986). On macrophages, it increases cytotoxicity, hydrogen peroxide production, Fc receptor expression and production of PG-E<sub>2</sub> and IL-1 (Talmadge 1988; Philip 1986; Hoffman 1987). On PMNs it induces chemotaxis, adhesiveness, phagocytosis, degranulation and oxygen radicals production (Clark 1987; Seow 1987) and according to some reports it provokes hypotension (Weinberg 1988) and suppresses bone marrow activity (Talmadge 1988).

Other effects of TNF include stimulation of proliferation or stimulation of mediator release from some types of normal cells such as fibroblasts (Sugarman 1985; Elias

1987) bone marrow hemopoietic cells (Slordal 1989; Vogel 1987) and thymocytes (Hurme 1988) as well as neoplastic cells (Schutze 1988). It also induces collagenase production (Dayer 1985), bone resorption (Bertolini 1986), angiogenesis (Leibovich 1987) and removal of advanced glycosylated end products (Vlassara 1988). All of these suggest an important role in tissue remodeling, wound repair, and potential pathologic effects seen in fibrosis induced by chronic inflammation (Sugarman 1985).

In addition TNF has several immunomodulatory effects such as enhancement of B cell proliferation and differentiation (Jelinek 1987) induction of cytostatic properties of NK cells and cytotoxic T-cells (Talmadge 1988), stimulation of lymphocyte migration (Issekutz 1989), cytotoxicity for a series of human tumor cell lines (Onozaki 1985, Old 1985) and as mediator of IL-2 toxicity when administered for cancer therapy in clinical trials (Fraker 1989). It is important to mention that although there might be a direct cytotoxic effects on the tumor, the *in vivo* antitumor effects of TNF are mainly related to disruption of the tumor's blood supply (Palladino 1987a).

As a generalization we can say that cachectin exerts a catabolic influence over most tissues. The benefits to be derived from cachectin effects are not fully understood at present. Possibly, the actions of the monokine are chiefly beneficial at a local level, and are deleterious when the hormone is expressed systemically in large quantity, in combination with other cytokines or with bacterial products, or in certain specific pathophysiologic conditions not related with its physiologic role.

Considerable information has shown that at a minimum, TNF has a prominent role in mediating LPS toxicity. Passive immunization with polyclonal (Beutler 1985) or monoclonal (Tracey 1987) anti-TNF antibody given before the administration of either TNF or LPS (Tracey 1987, Fraker 1989, Mathison 1988) has protected animals from lethality.

One of the main arguments that supports the hypothesis of TNF as THE mediator of sepsis is the protection of baboons with monoclonal anti-TNF F(ab') fragments from a lethal challenge with *E. coli* (Tracey 1987). It should be considered however, that baboons like vervets and C3H/HeJ mice are poorly sensitive to endotoxin (according to Westphal 10-25 kg baboons can stand iv injections of 4-5 mg/kg LPS)

and can survive up to 100 mg of *S. abortus equi* endotoxin without systemic reactions as those seen in sensitive species (Westphal 1975, Sultzner 1968). The difference in sensitivity between primates and humans is in the order of 1: > 1,000,000 .

In the same report it is suggested that 1 hour might have failed should uniform distribution and tissue penetration of the antibody not have occurred. Considering that probably not until 3 hours after the -1 hour administration scheme of antibody high levels of TNF occur, by that time enough intravascular distribution of the antibody fragments is certain. The argument of tissue distribution depends upon a mechanism of action of TNF out of the intravascular space. However, even in the endotoxin model, the only mechanism of action that has been proposed, at least under current time knowledge, is the endothelial injury that the TNF might mediate upon endothelial cells as well as upon other targets. Interestingly, in an experiment in rabbits, polyclonal anti-TNF administered before the injection of LPS did not prevent LPS induced-leukopenia, development of LPS tolerance or fever although 30 minutes were enough to prevent both TNF-like cytotoxicity in the serum and decrease in the mean arterial pressure and 45 minutes were enough to prevent mortality and all but the minimal histopathologic changes (Mathison 1988).

Administration of recombinant cachectin to rabbits caused fever or hypothermia, diarrhea, cyanosis, hemoconcentration, lactic acidosis, a transient phase of hyperglycemia followed by hypoglycemia, hypotension, and death. At necropsy, animals treated with cachectin showed widespread visceral necrosis, particularly involving the caecum and large bowel. Acute renal tubular necrosis was also evident, as was severe interstitial pneumonitis, increased number of Kupffer's cells and intracellular hepatocyte edema and increased liver and lung weight (Kettelhut 1987, Gaskill 1988; Tracey 1986). These effects were blocked by pretreatment with a monoclonal antibody capable of neutralizing recombinant human cachectin. These and other metabolic and hormonal changes characteristic of endotoxic shock were also induced in dogs by recombinant TNF administration (Tracey 1987b). The acute LD<sub>50</sub> for recombinant human TNF is 700 µg/kg in the rat, 50 µg/kg in the dog and in the baboon 30-50 µg/kg.

Both endotoxin and TNF cause the release and production of many other potent mediators with the capacity of inducing shock like syndrome. Among them PGE<sub>2</sub> and thromboxanes (Dayer 1985, Kettelhut 1987), leukotrienes (Huber 1988) IL-1

(Dinarello 1986, Okusawa 1988), PAF (Sun 1988) and IL-6 (Jablons 1989) are prominent candidates.

**Table 3. Effects of Tumor Necrosis Factor  $\alpha$**

T lymphocytes	IL-2 receptor expression, cytotoxicity, differentiation and proliferation
B lymphocytes	proliferation and differentiation.
Neutrophils	Activation, endothelial binding, increased respiratory burst, degranulation, inhibition of precursors, expression of C <sub>3b</sub> R, aggregation
Monocyte/M $\phi$	Activation, IL-1 and PGE <sub>2</sub> production, tissue factor production
Endothelial cells	Increase stickiness (ICAM-1), TNF, IL-1, GM-CSF and PGE <sub>2</sub> production, Procoagulant activity (tissue factor), increases MHC class I antigen expression, decrease exp. of thrombomodulin, decrease fibronectin.
Adipocytes	Suppresses lipoprotein lipase activity, inhibition of lipogenic enzyme gene transcription, Mobilization of stored lipids with return to morphology of fibroblasts.
CNS	Fever (synthesis of PGE <sub>2</sub> ), slow-wave sleep
Some tumor cells	Cytotoxicity
Fibroblasts	PGE <sub>2</sub> and collagenase production, proliferation, increases MHC class I antigen expression, interferon $\beta$ 1 and $\beta$ 2 production
Synoviocytes	Proliferation, IL-1, IFN- $\beta$ 1 and IFN- $\beta$ 2, PGE <sub>2</sub> and collagenase synthesis
Bone/Cartilage	Resorption with Ca <sup>++</sup> release
Bone marrow	Increases production of granulocyte-monocyte lineage, radioprotection, differentiation of some myelogenous leukemia cell lines
Skeletal muscle	Reduction of resting transmembrane potential, Acceleration of glycogenolysis with lactate release, glucose uptake and expression of hexose transporters.
Hepatocytes	Acute phase genes transcription
Others	Anti <i>Plasmodium</i> , <i>Candida</i> and schistosome larvae activity, Angiogenesis

Although this evidence points to TNF playing a central role in endotoxic shock, there is also evidence to the contrary. It has been recently reported that TNF itself can't induce hemorrhagic necrosis (Rothstein 1988a), or lethal shock (Rothstein 1988b, Neilson 1989) unless it is combined with endotoxin or other bacterial products, IL-1, or maybe some yet non-defined endogenous products. High levels of TNF may be induced with non-toxic forms of lipid A (Kiener 1988; Desiderio 1987), and in Mathison experience, the hypotension and leukopenia induced in rabbits by LPS were not induced by the infusion of comparable amounts of human recombinant TNF as those endogenously generated by LPS.

This has lead to the idea that TNF is a primary mediator of the toxic effect of LPS administration though not sufficient to provoke full development of injury, and may



act by sensitizing the host to the action of other mediators induced by LPS with which great synergism has been reported (Mathison 1988).

In humans, TNF has been detected after LPS administration with the same kinetics as in other animals (Michie 1988a). The effects of TNF administration itself show similar metabolic and toxic responses as the administration of LPS with fever, pituitary and stress hormone release and acute phase changes (Michie 1988b, Warren 1987). The presence of TNF in natural human diseases has been inconsistent. The first report associated it to parasitic infections with an incidence of 66% in patients with kala-azar and 70% in patients with malaria (Scuderi 1986). In contrast, this same study reported a less than 12% incidence in healthy subjects, 7.9% in cancer patients and none in umbilical cord blood. Simultaneously, a report found TNF in 3 cases (out of 23) of severe infections, in none of 23 cancer patients and in none of 25 normal controls (Waage 1986). Subsequent reports by Waage more consistently related TNF levels with the presence, severity and lethal outcome from meningococcal septicemia (Waage 1987 and 1989a) and have related the clinical presence of meningitis with detectable TNF levels in the cerebrospinal fluid (Waage 1989b).

Balkwill et al (1987) could relate TNF serum levels with clinically evident neoplastic activity in 50% of 226 patients (specially in patients with ovarian or oat-cell carcinoma), and although they do not mention number of cases or any other methodological data, Debets et al (1989) claim that TNF detection can be related to unfavorable outcome from sepsis. It is of interest however that cancer patients under clinical trials with TNF are remarkably resistant to levels of TNF exceeding concentrations found to be related to lethal outcome in patients suffering from meningococcal sepsis (Chapman 1987, Blick 1987).

The mechanisms of tissue damage that results from high TNF levels still remains unresolved. Direct cytotoxic effect has clearly been ruled out (Palladino 1987b). A number of studies have provided evidence that interactions between TNF and endothelial cells and PMN could produce changes that are relevant to many LPS induced pathophysiologic changes (Heflin 1981).  $C_{3a}$ ,  $C_{5a}$  IL-1 and TNF-induced increased adherence of neutrophils to endothelial cells combined with the stimulation of respiratory burst, degranulation, and increased production of reactive oxygen radicals, associated with expression of tissue factor-like procoagulant



activity, diminished expression of thrombomodulin activity, and the cooperation of thromboxanes, PAF, leukotrienes, lysosomal enzymes, histamine, serotonin and bradykinin, altogether have an enormous potential for producing endothelial damage, increasing microvascular permeability and resulting in the pathologic characteristics of septic shock or MSOF.

A gap of intriguing facts still remains between the experimentally induced toxic effects of LPS/endotoxin and the damage and response inflicted by live bacteria in the infected host; not absolute evidence has yet linked human bacterial infection with LPS toxicity. It is clear that in the endotoxin model, macrophages, platelets and their products acting upon, neutrophils and endothelial cells have the leading roles, and that the direct toxic effect of LPS is at best the spark that starts a seemingly kaotic situation. At this point it seems that the initial production of TNF is necessary, though not sufficient to lead to full development of injury, and may act through potential autocrine effects of TNF itself.

## **BACTERIAL ENDOTOXINS**

It is known that bacterial products can exert profound effects on humans and other animals. One such class of products exists exclusively in association with the bacterial wall of gram-negative bacteria and is released mainly upon bacterial lysis. These toxic materials have been designated "endotoxins" to distinguish them from toxic substances of protein nature synthesized and excreted by intact bacteria, known as "exotoxins". Endotoxins consist of aggregates of lipopolysaccharides and protein and to a lesser extent, loosely bound lipids released into the surrounding medium upon bacteriolysis.

## **STRUCTURE OF LPS**

The bacterial surface consists of an inner cytoplasmic membrane and a trilayer outer cell wall structure composed of: 1) Mucopolysaccharide-peptidoglycan layer; 2) phospholipid protein layer; 3) the outermost Lipopolysaccharide layer.

Some strains of gram-negative bacteria contain, in addition, a capsular polysaccharide layer.

Several extraction methods have been devised to obtain different preparations of LPS from the bacterial wall. Two of the most popular ones are the procedures described by Boivin (1935) and Westphal (1952). Boivin's procedure involves extraction with ice-cold trichloroacetic acid (TCA) and results in endotoxin preparations which primarily consist of lipopolysaccharides but contain, in addition, protein and lipid. Westphal's procedure utilizes a hot aqueous phenol extraction of bacterial suspensions and yields a pure protein-free lipopolysaccharide, which also manifests potent endotoxin activities (Morrison 1978).

Virtually all of the biologic activities normally attributable to bacterial endotoxins could also be elicited with isolated chemically pure lipopolysaccharides and in most instances the lipid portion of the LPS molecule. It should however be recognized, that endotoxin and LPS or even fractions of LPS may be significantly different, both with respect to chemical composition and biological activity. Endotoxins are actually LPS-protein complexes contained in cell walls of gram-negative bacteria and thus the presence or absence of the protein component serves to distinguish endotoxins from purified lipopolysaccharides.

The LPS molecule (Figure 1) which has the function of a selective permeability barrier in controlling the transport of molecules into the cell (Leive 1965) consists of a polysaccharide region covalently bound to a lipid region, the lipid-A (which is different from the noncovalent loosely bound lipids associated with the endotoxin complex). The polysaccharide portion consists of two distinct regions: a core polysaccharide and an O-antigen polysaccharide. The core polysaccharide region which is often identical for large groups of bacteria, contains a unique deoxysugar 2-keto,3-deoxy-octulosonate (KDO) as well as heptose, phosphoryl-ethanolamine, and several hexoses which together define the core structure. The O-antigens normally exist as repeating oligosaccharide units containing three to four different hexose units each. The number of repeating oligosaccharide units can be as few as two (present in so called semi-rough strains) or as many as 10 (in smooth strains) even within the same bacterium. A number of mutant (rough) strains of bacteria which synthesize deficient LPS molecules have been isolated. The LPS isolated from the Re 595 mutant of *Salmonella minnesota* (Kim 1967) which lacks the ability to

synthesize heptose, consists only of a Lipid A, the trisaccharide of KDO, and phosphoryl-ethanolamine (Figure 1).

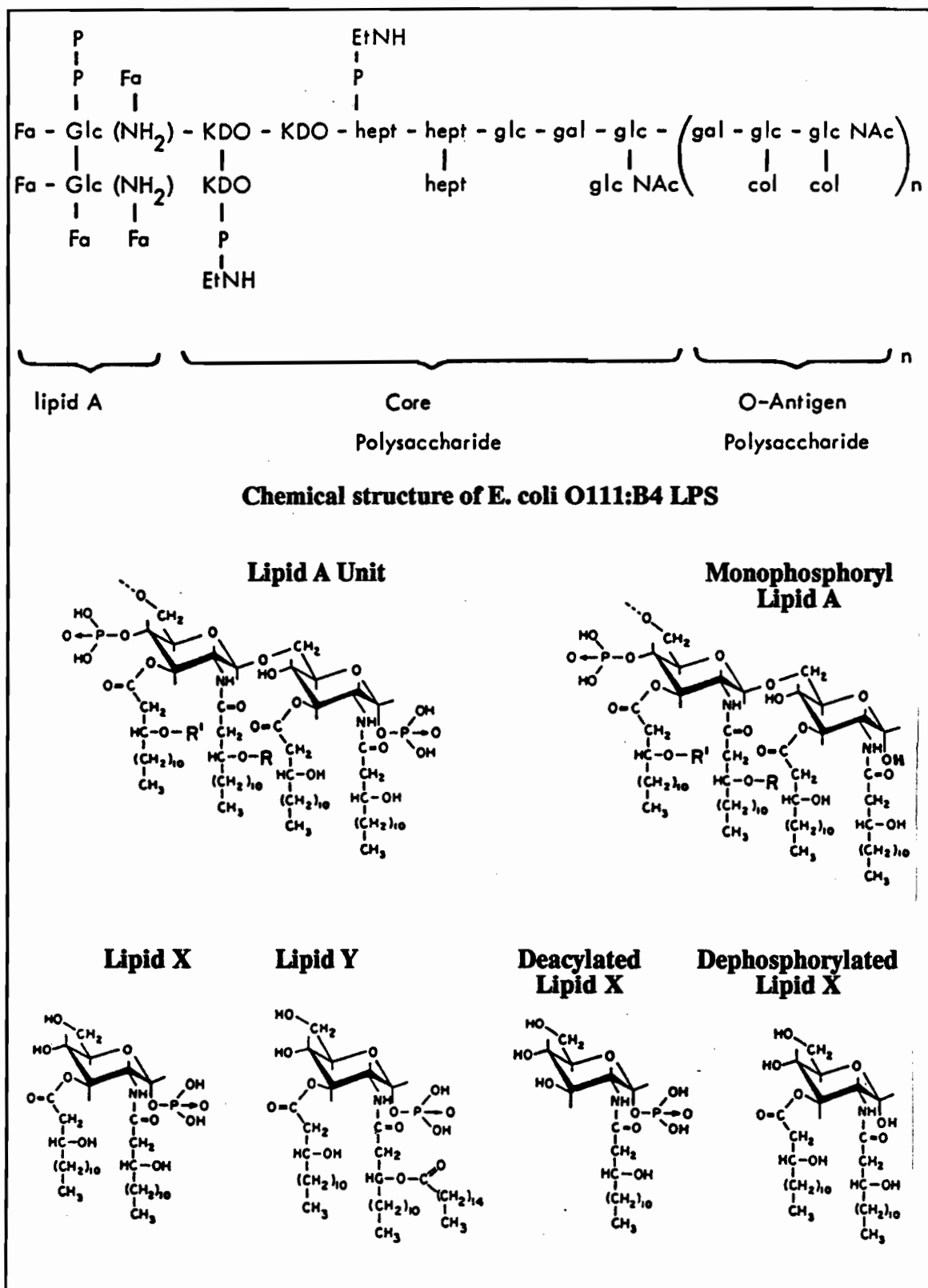
The three regions of the LPS molecule, the O polysaccharide, the core, and the Lipid A, are immunogenic. While the O polysaccharide exhibits a high diversity in its structure and composition and thereby in its serologic specificity among gram-negative bacteria, the core polysaccharide is less variable, being similar in larger groups of bacteria. For this reason, antibodies to the various core structures, usually prepared by immunizing with defective R-mutant bacteria, are expected to interact with a large number of gram-negative bacteria, provided the various core antigens are exposed in the intact LPS (Galanos 1984).

### **LIPID A, LIPID X AND RELATED COMPOUNDS**

As mentioned, lipid A represents the covalently bound lipid component of lipopolysaccharides. Lipid A of endotoxically active LPS consists of a  $\beta$ 1-6 linked D-glucosamine disaccharide that carries phosphoryl groups in positions 1 and 4' (Figure 1). Depending on the origin of lipid A, nonacylated, nitrogen-containing residues may be bound to these phosphoryl groups. Lipid A also contains amide-linked fatty acids, that appear to be uniformly  $\beta$ -OH substituted. The basic structure of the Lipid A region of LPS isolated from a broad spectrum of gram-negative bacteria is remarkably similar (Hase 1976, Rietschel 1984).

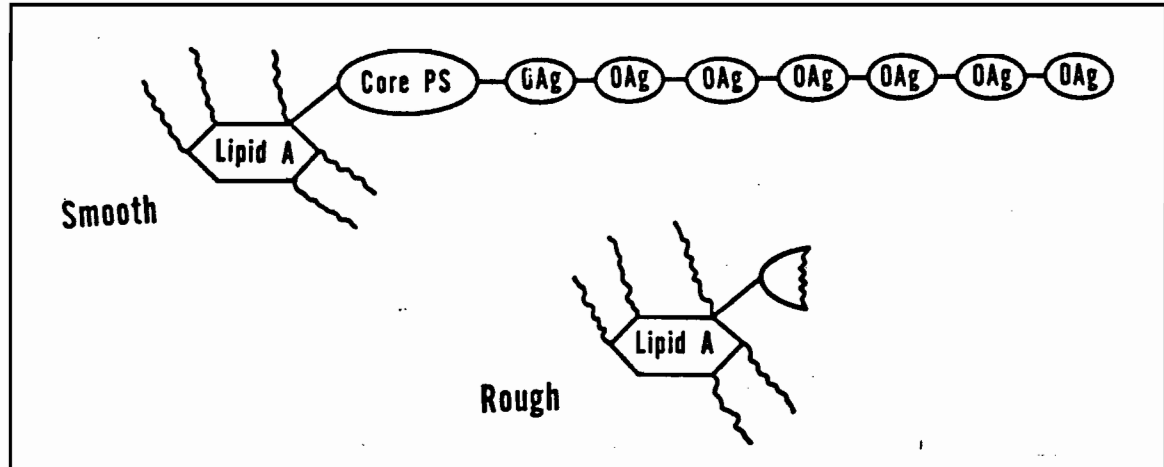
Lipid X is thought to represent a very early precursor involved in the biosynthesis of lipid A. It is a diacylglucosamine 1-phosphate fraction with two  $\beta$ -hydroxymyristoyl groups at positions 2 and 3 (Kusumoto 1984). Another form of mutant lipid A called lipid Y has the same structure as lipid X, except for the additional presence of a palmitoyl moiety on the N-linked  $\beta$ -hydroxymyristate (Nishijima 1985). Figure 1 shows these molecules and Figure 2 shows a schematical representation of the basic structure of LPS from smooth and rough strains.

The demonstration that endotoxins prepared from polysaccharide-deficient mutants still manifest virtually all of the endotoxic properties of polysaccharide-containing endotoxins firmly established that lipid A plays a dominant role in endotoxicity (Takayama 1984, Homma 1985). Further evidence of the importance of lipid A is



**Figure 1.** Chemical structure of LPS, Lipid A, and related precursors. Fa = fatty acid; Glc(NH<sub>2</sub>) = Glucosamine; P = Phosphoryl; KDO = Keto-deoxy-octulosonate; EtNH = Ethanolamine; hept = heptose; glc = glucose; gal = galactose; col = collateral chains; NAc = N-acetylglucosamine.

that its biological effect can be neutralized with Polymyxin B which binds stoichiometrically to the lipid A region of LPS (Morrison 1976).



**Figure 2.** Basic structure of LPS. Schematic representation of LPS molecule from smooth or rough strains of gram negative bacteria.

It has been proposed that in order to induce toxicity and pyrogenicity, lipid A must contain: (1) a glucosamine disaccharide, (2) a sugar-1-phosphate, and (3) normal fatty acids. Most reports agree with these conditions in terms of toxicity (Takayama 1981 and 1984, Galanos 1984, Homma 1985, Golenbock 1987) although there is disagreement in terms of lethality and the capacity of inducing a Shwartzman reaction. Some groups report high lethal toxicity for both natural and synthetic lipid A and for monophosphoryl lipid A (Takayama, Galanos and Homma) while others deny such a degree of toxicity (Burhop 1983, Kiener 1988). All reports agree in the concept that dephosphoryl lipid A, lipid X or smaller fractions are non-lethal, non- or poorly toxic and unable to induce fever or even mitogenicity on B cells.

Nontoxic and still biologically active LPS derivatives have been searched for their potential role as an immunogen and biologic response modulators. Progressively smaller fractions or modified preparations have been tested for the various effects: gelation of the *Limulus ameobocyte* lysate; toxicity for chick embryo, sheep, guinea pigs or mice; pyrogenicity; induction of TNF production *in vivo* or *in vitro*; or induction of tolerance to more toxic preparations.

In 1981 Takayama et al reported that it was possible to prepare detoxified fractions of lipid A (probably monophosphoryl lipid A) with a Chick embryo lethal dose 50

(CELD<sub>50</sub>) > 10 µg, non-pyrogenic to rabbits, and non-toxic to guinea pigs and still effective inducing tumor regression (Takayama 1981). Although some subsequent reports support this concept, others seem to be in conflict with it.

There is agreement in relation to the capacity that different compounds have in provoking LAL gelation. Natural and synthetic lipid A, monophosphoryl lipid A and lipid X gave a positive reaction while deacylated and desphosphorylated lipid X were negative (Elin 1976, Takayama 1984, Kanegasaki 1984, Homma 1985, Proctor 1986). This concept demonstrates that LAL is not a valid measure of all parameters of toxicity of lipid A or lipid A-like compounds and can yield false positive results while no toxic condition are actually produced. Desphosphorylated lipid A, and desphosphorylated or deacylated lipid X do not gelate the LAL (Takayama 1984, Homma 1985).

In terms of the capacity of the different compounds to induce TNF production or LPS tolerance *in vivo* or *in vitro* reports are again divergent. According to some publications natural or synthetic lipid A (Galanos 1984, Männel 1989), monophosphoryl lipid A (Madonna 1986) and natural lipid X (Proctor 1986, Golenbock 1987) are capable of inducing LPS tolerance. Nevertheless, Sayers et al (1987) using a synthetic lipid X *in vitro* could not induce in bone marrow-derived macrophages unresponsiveness to lipid A for TNF production.

Great differences in opinion prevail in relation to TNF production. Some authors suggest that monophosphoryl lipid A (Chen 1985) and lipid X (Feist 1989) are unable to induce TNF production, while others sustain that monophosphoryl lipid A (Feist 1989), natural (Amano 1986) or synthetic lipid X (Sayers 1987), or even desphosphorylated lipid A (Homma 1985) are capable of inducing TNF production.

Ribi reported that like endotoxin or diphosphoryl lipid A, the non-toxic monophosphoryl lipid A retains the ability to synergistically enhance the antitumor activity of mycobacterial cell wall skeleton adjuvant (Ribi 1984).

Finally, Nishijima et al (1985) has reported that lipid X and lipid Y can activate macrophages, and according to Homma et al (1985) desphosphorylated lipid A can also do so. Desphosphorylated and deacylated lipid X seem to have lost the

capacity to provoke any of the biological effects of endotoxin (Takayama 1984, Amano 1986).

Antibodies to Lipid A occur naturally in the serum of normal humans and many animal species. They have been found in 10%-34%, and even up to 73% of individuals tested as detected by indirect hemolysis and ELISA. Antibodies to lipid A interact with free lipid A but not with lipid A as present in the intact lipopolysaccharide molecule. Because of similarities between the lipid A of many gram-negative bacteria, antibodies to lipid A showed wide cross-reaction. With regard to biologic activity, antibodies to lipid A have been variously shown to be protective, damaging, or without effect (Galanos 1984).

Natural or exogenously administered anti-LPS antibodies have been extensively studied but there is still disagreement both in the mechanism of action of the antibodies and in the particular benefits they confer. Some models have used anti-oligosaccharide antibodies and others have precluded the superiority of anti-core raised antibodies.

The use of passive or active immunization with anti-core LPS relies on the following principles: (1) LPS plays a central role in gram-negative pathogenicity. (2) Antisera raised against rough mutants contains antibodies directed against core LPS. (3) These antibodies are able to interact with LPS from smooth strains of multiple species of enterobacteria sharing common antigens. The protective effect is thought to be acting as both antitoxin and opsonin.

In an animal model Abernathy first reported that late endotoxin tolerance conferred protection against the lethal effect of homologous endotoxin that persisted uniformly for two months wherein heterologous protection was not impressive (Abernathy 1957).

McCabe observed that the highest levels of passive protection against endotoxin lethality were provided with O-specific rabbit antisera and that no protection was conferred using antisera to lipid A in lead-sensitized rats (McCabe 1977), but this same author found that naturally occurring high titers of O-specific antibodies did not prevent shock and death, whereas both complications were 1/3 as frequent among patients with high titers (1:80 or above) of Re antibody (McCabe 1972b).

From animals work it has been concluded that passive immunization with rough mutants may prevent death after lethal challenge with various smooth heterologous gram-negative bacteria or endotoxins (Tate 1966; Chedid 1968; McCabe 1972 and 1972a; Ziegler 1973a and 1975; Marks 1982, Dunn 1982). The antibodies have also precluded localized and generalized Shwartzman reactions after injection of LPS (Braude 1972 and 1973; Ziegler 1973b; Davis 1978) and have suppressed hypotension after injection of endotoxins (Young 1975).

There are however, conflicting reports. One group supported that anti-native LPS antibodies did not protect granulocytopenic animals from a bacterial challenge but anti rough type of LPS did (Ziegler 1973); while in another study monoclonal antibodies directed against the oligosaccharide side chain determinant of LPS provided protection against challenge with the specific bacteria (Kirkland 1984).

Using monoclonal antibodies against *E. coli* J5 a high degree of protection has also been reported in the dermal Shwartzman reaction and against lethal bacteremia with different bacteria (Teng 1985; Dunn 1985). Aldridge proposed that J5 antiserum exerts its beneficial effect by nonspecific enhancement of rethiculoendothelial function rather than by a specific effect on clearance of LPS (Aldridge 1987).

In clinical trials the story is even more confusing. Based in an uncontrolled study of 20 patients with severe pseudomonas infections it was concluded that human anti-*Pseudomonas* IgG fraction improved opsonic activity and bacterial killing (Jones 1987). In a now classical report septic patients were treated with human antiserum to *E. coli* J5 endotoxin and compared it with the effect of pre-immune serum. From improved survival rate both in a bacteremic group (22% vs. 39% in the controls) and in a group in profound shock (44% vs 77% in the controls) the authors concluded that their treatment could substantially reduce death from gram-negative bacteremia (Ziegler 1982). However, using the same preparation for prophylaxis in neutropenic patients, no benefit could be demonstrated as assessed by the number of febrile days, the number of gram-negative bacteremic episodes, or death from these infections (McCutchan 1983). On the contrary, in Baumgartner experience, prophylactic administration of J5-immune plasma prevented the development of gram-negative septic shock and death after abdominal surgery in patients at high risk of infection (Baumgartner 1985).



More recently, an intriguing study using human IgG antibody to *E. coli* J5 compared with a standard IgG preparation failed to show any advantage of the hyperimmune IgG in survival, systemic complications or time of death due to septic shock (Calandra 1988).

That antibodies are not essential for late endotoxin tolerance to be manifested is perhaps best illustrated by the studies of Zaldivar and Scher wherein B-lymphocyte-defective (CBA/N) mice exhibited high levels of late tolerance to endotoxin lethality tested 8 days after a single priming injection of endotoxin, despite the inability of this murine strain to produce any detectable levels of anti-endotoxin antibodies (Zaldivar 1979).

**Table 4. Biological Effects of Endotoxin**

Leukopenia	Nonspecific resistance to infection
Leukocytosis	Induction of endotoxin tolerance
Pyrogenicity	Adjuvant activity in promoting IgG synthesis
Depression of blood pressure	Polyclonal B lymphocyte mitogen
Enhanced dermal activity to epinephrine	Decrease expression of Fc receptor on Mø
Tumor necrotic activity	Mø secretion of tissue factor of coagulation
Bone marrow necrosis	Mø and endothelium production of Colony
Embryonic bone reabsorption	stimulating factors and fibroblast
Limulus lysate gelation	proliferation factors
Shwartzman phenomenon	Increase expression of Ia molecules on
Lethal toxicity	macrophages
Toxicity increased by adrenalectomy	Macrophage activation
Toxicity increased priming with BCG,	Direct cytotoxic effect on endothelium
<i>C. parvum</i> , <i>C. granulorum</i> and Zymosan	Pro-coagulant activity on endothelium
Production of eicosanoids PGE <sub>2</sub> , PGF <sub>2α</sub> ,	Increased adherence of endothelium to PMN
TxB <sub>2</sub> , 6-keto PGF <sub>1α</sub> , LTB <sub>4</sub> and C <sub>4</sub>	and lymphocytes
Production of cytokines TNF α, IFN-α and	PMN and Mø Production of PAF
β1, IL-1 α and β and IL-6	Increased PMN and Mø production of active
Production of lymphokines LT and IFN-γ	oxygen metabolites and phagocytosis
Complement, Hageman factor, Plasminogen	Chemotactic for PMN and Mø
and Kinin activation	Degranulation of PMN

Because of the power of LPS to promote inflammation, LPS must be rapidly neutralized. Considering the vast amount of LPS in the gut, the mechanism for neutralizing LPS must be powerful enough to keep subthreshold levels in the circulation and prevent monocyte activation (Pabst 1989).

Ulevitch and Johnston demonstrated that combination of LPS with high density lipoproteins (HDL) through *in vitro* or *in vivo* exposure to normal rabbit serum, greatly reduced LPS-induced pyrogenicity, toxicity, neutropenia, and anticomplementary activity suggesting that this may account for a major intravascular pathway of LPS detoxification (Ulevitch 1982). This same group described that there is a rapid phase of LPS clearance where one third of the administered LPS is cleared from blood in 30 minutes. The rest of the LPS complexes with HDL and is then slowly eliminated with a half life of 12 hours and no evidence of alteration in the chemical structure of LPS. The slow phase is longer for the S-form than for R-form of LPS (Freudenberg 1980). In the liver, LPS is first detected in Kupffer's cells and granulocytes; from there it is later redistributed (after two days) into hepatocytes. Chemically altered LPS excretion continued via the feces for several weeks (Freudenberg 1984). Supporting this same line of thinking, it has been demonstrated that pre-incubation of LPS with serum reduced its potency for *in vitro* LPS-induced production of TNF by rabbit peritoneal macrophages (Mathison 1988) or the production of TNF, IL-1 or IL-6 by human monocytes (Flegel 1989) by a factor of 10 to 100 which was true for different types of LPS and even for lipid A. Umbilical cord derived sera and five batches of FBS and pooled rat sera were effective. On the other side natural anti-LPS IgG antibodies present in human sera and complement components did not seem to affect LPS-induced IL-1 production (Flegel 1989).

It has been uncertain that chemically extracted LPS actually mimic the properties of native LPS generated in the host of an infectious process *in vivo*. Addressing this problem phenol extracted and native forms of LPS from *S. typhimurium* G-30 were compared for various biological properties (*in vivo* fate, pyrogenicity, LAL assay activity) and were found quite similar (Munford 1982). Phenol extraction did not alter the biological properties of LPS but as the authors alert, the disaggregation of purified LPS (a pre-requisite for combination with HDL) and the removal of LPS from membrane fragments before HDL binding may be quite different *in vivo*, and so could be the biological behavior of bacterial endotoxins different to the one tested.

LPS is concentrated in the liver, spleen, and lung while the HDL-LPS complex primarily concentrates in the adrenal glands and ovaries, which as speculated, might compromise the ability of the host to survive LPS-induced shock (Mathison 1979).

Even more, treatment of experimental animals with dexamethasone abolishes specific binding of both HDL and HDL-LPS complexes to the adrenal gland while administration of ACTH increases the specific adrenal binding of the two preparations (Munford 1981)

## **ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE**

Acquired endotoxin tolerance was encountered almost a century ago by physicians employing bacterial vaccines for fever therapy who noticed that increasing resistance developed to the pyrogenic and subjective toxic effects of the bacterial products when they were repeatedly injected (Beeson 1947).

Endotoxin tolerance is defined as the unresponsiveness to bacterial endotoxins. It may occur as a inborn attribute genetically determined where the tolerant species (or strain) exhibit minimal response to an initial intravenous injection of relatively massive quantities of endotoxin. Examples are baboons, vervets, and C3H/HeJ mice (Sultzter 1968; Westphal 1975). In contrast to such natural resistance, other species respond to an initial intravenous injection of endotoxin with striking physiologic and biochemical alterations, man being one of the most highly responsive (Greisman 1973). Most of these responses decrease progressively in two temporally distinct phases; early and late endotoxin tolerance.

## **EARLY LPS TOLERANCE**

The early phase of endotoxin tolerance develops in as little as one hour after the first exposure to LPS (Galanos 1979) it is transient, and requires closely spaced or continuous endotoxin infusion for maximal maintenance (Greisman 1965). It is not O-antigen specific and is not associated with increments in circulating anti-endotoxin antibodies but is specific for endotoxin as a class, and no tolerance occurs to other pyrogens such as staphylococcal enterotoxin, influenza virus, or tuberculin in sensitized animals (Greisman 1966). The level of tolerance is directly proportional to the magnitude of the initial pyrogenic response but it is still relative, and can be overcome by increasing the rate of endotoxin infusion (Greisman 1965). In rabbits, nonpyrogenic doses of LPS do not induce tolerance (Greisman 1965). It

cannot be transferred with plasma and cannot be overcome with normal plasma or whole blood. Refractoriness results from inability of the host to continue to mobilize endogenous pyrogen during sustained endotoxemia (Greisman 1966), and responsiveness persists to preformed endogenous pyrogen (Greisman 1983). These same authors and others demonstrated that tolerance is a macrophage-mediated phenomenon (Dinarello 1968; Galanos 1979).

Recently, it has been demonstrated that LPS-unresponsive C3H/HeJ mice are sensitive to the toxic effect of recombinant TNF administration, and what is more interesting, such animals develop a state of unresponsiveness comparable to the early phase of endotoxin tolerance which can be induced both with native murine TNF (Cerami 1985) as with recombinant human TNF (Socher 1988). IL-1 is also capable of inducing refractoriness to its own effects *in vivo* as the IL-1-induced anorexia disappears under continuous IL-1 administration (Otterness 1989).

Repeated exposure to IL-1 may induce down-regulation of specific surface receptors as shown *in vitro* on a murine T cell lymphoma, EL4, a murine fibroblast cell line, Swiss 3T3 (Mizel 1987), or a human large granular lymphocyte cell line, YT (Matsushima 1986). Even more, Fraker et al demonstrated in rats that in a dose dependent manner, TNF can induce tolerance to its own toxic effects as well as to the toxic effects of endotoxin and *vice versa* (Fraker 1988), and Holtmann et al demonstrated that cells exhibited a lesser vulnerability to the cytolytic effect of TNF associated with a reversible reduction in TNF receptors initiated within minutes of application of IL-1 or phorbol-myristate-acetate [PMA]. Interestingly, TNF receptor level was fully recovered within a few hours of removal of the agents and yet at that time resistance to the cytotoxicity of TNF was still prominent (Holtmann 1987).

Nevertheless, opposite results have been obtained by others. Vogel et al could not induce LPS tolerance with TNF or with IL-1 alone, but combined administration of both cytokines which were not toxic when administered individually led to synergistic toxicity (as assessed by death or weight loss). However, within nontoxic range, the two cytokines synergized to induce a significant reduction in the capacity to produce colony-stimulating factor and bone marrow changes characteristic with LPS-induced tolerance (Vogel 1988).

The role and capacity of TNF in inducing LPS tolerance is controversial. Mathison reported lack of induction of LPS tolerance by *in vitro* (peritoneal macrophages) or *in vivo* exposure (rabbits) to recombinant TNF, and interestingly, the administration of anti-TNF antibody previous to the *in vivo* LPS challenge prevented detectable levels of TNF in serum, prevented hypotension, prevented all but the minimal histopathologic changes and lethality but did not prevent induction of LPS tolerance (Mathison 1988).

Several mechanisms have been invoked to explain LPS tolerance. LPS could induce inhibitors that would: (a) block directly the activity of TNF and other mediators of LPS effect, (b) block further LPS-induced release of endogenous mediators. Alternatively (c) the cell population responsible for the release of mediators becomes desensitized and refractory to subsequent exposure to LPS, or (d) the target cells for the effects of TNF and the other mediators become refractory through various possible mechanisms such as down-regulation of receptors, inactivation of intracellular enzyme-activating targets or secondary mediators, or repression of genes responsive to the various LPS-induced mediators including TNF.

Although several concepts are available to support some hypothesis, no definitive explanation has yet been formulated. A brief comment on those concepts follows.

*In vitro* models using alveolar (Fisch 1983) or peritoneal macrophages (Männel 1980) obtained from animals during endotoxin tolerance have shown a lack of TNF production. LPS induced endotoxin tolerance like state with lack of generation of TNF after a challenge with LPS has also been induced *in vitro* in the RAW 264.7 cell line (Beutler 1985). Preliminary experiments in our lab have shown similar low *in vitro* LPS-elicited TNF levels using spleen, peritoneal cavity or liver (Kupffer's cells) macrophages obtained from endotoxin tolerant rats (in preparation, Yun 1990).

These *in vitro* experiments suggest that endotoxin tolerance is neither due to inhibitors of TNF activity present in plasma nor to the presence of serum factors that inhibited LPS induction of TNF production by monocytes (Mathison 1988).

Using a TNF sensitive cell line, it has been shown that although exposure to TNF decreases the number of TNF receptors on the cell surface and suppressed the

susceptibility to the cytotoxic effect of TNF, the kinetics of recovery of TNF receptors and susceptibility to the cytotoxic effect is not similar. Within a few hours of removal of TNF, IL 1 or phorbol diesters from pre-treated cells previously decreased TNF receptors are fully regained, yet, the cells still maintain their resistance, indicating that some induced changes other than decrease in TNF receptors participates in the protection from cytolysis (Israel 1986), and a similar argument might be applicable to refractoriness to LPS- and other TNF-dependent effects.

Additional evidence for the mechanism of endotoxin tolerance was presented by Madonna and Vogel who associated tolerance to the presence of increased numbers of bone marrow-derived macrophage progenitor cells and suggest that the lack of responsiveness is related to failure of these immature cell types to respond to LPS (Madonna 1985). Pilaro and Laskin reported increased numbers of activated mononuclear phagocytes in the liver following LPS treatment of rats (Pilaro 1986). Similar non-published experience has been obtained in our lab (Yun 1990).

An important difference between acquired endotoxin tolerance and the natural tolerance of the C3H/HeJ mouse is that the HeJ mouse is insensitive to LPS but sensitive to TNF itself while LPS-induced tolerance is effected not only at the endotoxin-TNF link but also beyond this level because LPS tolerance can not be overcome by exogenous administration of TNF (Fraker 1988; Wallach 1987). The C3H/HeJ mouse lacks the gene controlling responsiveness to LPS and such mice fail to produce TNF, however such mice also do not produce IL-1 (Rosenstreich 1978), interferon (Apte 1977; Vogel 1980; Watson 1978) or prostaglandins E<sub>2</sub> and F<sub>2α</sub> (Rietschel 1982) in response to endotoxin.

The complexity of endotoxin tolerance where not only endotoxin fails to induce a response but animals *in vivo* or cells *in vitro* are also refractory to the effect of LPS-induced mediators has motivated other ways to study the mechanism of tolerance. Holtmann et al working with TNF sensitive cell lines studied the mechanism of sensitivity or resistance to the cytolytic effects of TNF. The working hypothesis were two: (1) That resistant cells may be incapable of responding to TNF because they do not express those activities which lead to their destruction, or alternatively, (2) they may express those cytolytic mechanisms just as effectively as sensitive cells, and yet be also endowed with additional mechanisms which counteract the cytolytic

ones. Their results support the last hypothesis: Applying TNF in the absence of inhibitors of protein synthesis, upon cells whose killing by the protein depends on treatment with such inhibitors, resulted in induction of resistance to the cytolytic activity of TNF when they were tested in the presence of the inhibitors, reflecting that an active process occurred while exposed to TNF in the inhibitor-free condition. Such resistance is also inducible with IL-1 and with tumor promoting phorbol diesters (Holtman 1987 and 1988). This information suggests that tolerance to the effects of TNF might be mediated not through a literally speaking unresponsiveness or insensitivity but rather through the development of a TNF neutralizing process. At the moment is not clear if such a mechanism is also present in endotoxin tolerance at the cellular or the molecular level.

#### **LATE LPS TOLERANCE.**

The characteristics of the late phase of endotoxin tolerance have been described in relation to the pyrogenic and the Schwartzman reaction eliciting properties of endotoxin. Such characteristics are: that it is delayed, requiring 72 hours or more after the first exposure to LPS in order to appear. It is enduring, persisting for weeks to months. It is highly, although not completely, specific for the O endotoxin employed for the initial injection. It bears no direct relationship to the intensity of the initial pyrogenic response, it is associated with increments in anti-endotoxin antibodies, and is retarded in hosts with impaired antibody synthesizing capabilities. It can be transferred with serum, and with IgG and IgM fractions. It is accelerated in onset if the host has previously been injected with the homologous endotoxin, i.e. O-specific anamnestic tolerant responses can be elicited.

These findings, considered collectively, indicate that the late phase of endotoxin tolerance is mediated by the production of anti-endotoxin antibodies. If endotoxins from rough gram-negative bacterial mutants are used to evoke late tolerance, the tolerance transferable with serum is no longer primarily O-specific, but now extends to endotoxins from other bacterial species (Greisman 1973). Such findings indicate that, in the absence of the O-specific terminal antigenic side chains, common core antigens are unmasked in the endotoxin molecule and that antibodies to these common antigens can provide broad spectrum protection against endotoxins from diverse gram-negative bacteria (Greisman 1969).

It has been demonstrated that *in vitro* anti-endotoxin serum inhibits endotoxin from evoking endogenous pyrogen release from isolated hepatic Kupffer cells and spleen cells, but exerts no such protective effect against the endogenous pyrogen evoking activity of endotoxin from peripheral blood leukocyte (Dinarelo 1968).

## ENDOTOXIN AND ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE IN HUMANS

The human is one of the species most reactive to LPS. Gross inflammatory responses are readily elicited with  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-4}$   $\mu\text{g}/0.1 \text{ mL}$  ( $10^{-11}$  M according to Colditz 1984b) and leukocytosis can occur with subpyrogenic doses (Mechanic 1962). An elevation of temperature can be evoked with less than 0.001  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  of purified endotoxin (Greisman 1973). On a per/kg bases, rabbit and man are almost equally reactive to threshold pyrogenic quantities of endotoxin and this is why the rabbit model has so profusely been used. However, as the quantity of endotoxin is increased, the dose response relationship becomes considerably steeper for man, and the intensity of the subjective human toxic responses increases in parallel with the pyrogenic response (Greisman 1969). Interestingly, most laboratory rabbits have no coliform bacteria in their bowel in clear distinction from humans so the comparison between rabbits and humans in terms of LPS effects should be carefully evaluated (Braude 1969).

When endotoxin is administered to humans in single, daily, iv injections, tolerance to both febrile and subjective toxic reactions of endotoxin becomes evident within 48 hours, and with certain endotoxins, the febrile and subjective toxic responses are actually increased 24 hours after the initial iv administration. Such enhanced febrile response at 24 hours are never seen in the rabbit (Greisman 1964).

According to Greisman, no tolerance develop to LPS induced dermal inflammatory reactivity when humans are rendered tolerant by daily iv injections of LPS or when endotoxin is administered daily into the same site for one week (Greisman 1973). Other authors have found in rabbits inhibition of the neutrophil inflammatory response at 6 hours when restimulated with the same agent. This has been corroborated for PAF,  $\text{LTB}_4$  and LPS but not for  $\alpha$ -casein which repeatedly induced neutrophil infiltration without desensitization (Colditz 1984a). Local development of tachyphylaxis to histamine-, bradikinin- and FMLP-dependent capillary leakage has also been demonstrated which develops in 30 minutes to one hour and



progressively decreases over 4 days (Colditz 1985). And tachyphylaxis to the local inflammatory effect of LPS and IL-1 has been observed with a cross-tachyphylaxis between endotoxin and IL-1 and vice versa (Cybulsky et al 1986).

In the naive rabbit, the injection of endotoxin induces a biphasic febrile curve with a rapidly appearing first-fever peak with a latent period of approximately 15 minutes and a summit at about 90 minutes. This early response is absent in man. A second phase of fever develops after that first peak which closely parallel the time course of the human response. After induction of tolerance, the rabbit manifests a monophasic fever curve equivalent to the first phase of the usual response, whilst in tolerant humans the febrile response may completely disappear (Greisman 1973). Tolerance also lasts a much shorter period of time in humans than the rabbit, but this might be a reflection of the very low doses that can be used in man due to the extraordinary high sensitivity of the species to LPS (Wolf 1973).

Volunteers infected with *Salmonella typhosa* develop a remarkable hyperreactivity to the pyrogenic and subjective toxic activities of homologous (*S. typhosa*) and heterologous (*Pseudomonas*) endotoxins. Significant tolerance to these endotoxins can be readily induced within the framework of the hyperreactive state. In Greisman experience tolerance induced before illness by repeated daily intravenous injections of the endotoxins remained demonstrable during overt illness. Daily intravenous injections of the endotoxins begun during overt illness evoked progressively increasing tolerance and continuous intravenous infusion of *S. typhosa* endotoxin during illness rapidly induced a pyrogenic refractory state. Similar results have been found in volunteers with *Pasteurella tularensis* and patients with brucellosis (Greisman 1969).

Using the *Limulus* lysate technique, Caridis et al (1972) identified endotoxemia in a group of patients with septic and non-septic disorders. Unfortunately, there were no controls and it is only a small collection of 13 cases where endotoxemia was detected of whom 8 died; one had no evidence of infectious process. Positive *Limulus* test in plasma from apparently healthy humans or from portal blood in non infected patients are also common (Jacob 1977; DuBose 1978).

Substances other than LPS can produce false positive result for endotoxin on the *Limulus* assay (Brunson 1976; Susuki 1977; Wildfeuer 1974; Elin 1973, 1976 and

1978), and many patients with infections due to gram-negative rods do not yield positive reactions on the test. Positive reactions are also not strong indicators of bacteremia or fatal outcome (Kass 1973).

Hesse et al administered endotoxin (20 U/kg) to 4 adults. Peak amounts of serum TNF were detected at 1.5 hours and returned to basal levels at 2.5 hours. Peak levels of IL-1 were reached at 2 hours but were not statistically different from basal levels. IFN- $\gamma$  and lymphotoxin were not detected. The subjects presented a temperature increase of 0.8 to 2.6 °C within 4 hours preceded by myalgia, headache and rigors. All of the symptoms appeared as early as 90 minutes and resolved within six hours (Hesse 1988).

Revhaug compared the effect of *E. coli* endotoxin iv in normal human volunteers to Ibuprofen treated subjects. Endotoxin administration produced a response similar to an acute illness, with flu-like symptoms, fever, tachycardia, increased metabolic rate, and stimulation of stress hormone release (corticotropin, cortisol, growth hormone, norepinephrine and epinephrine). These changes, including the subjects' discomfort were markedly attenuated by cyclooxygenase inhibition. The leukocytosis, lymphopenia, hypoferrremia, and elevation of the C-reactive protein level induced by endotoxin were unaffected by Ibuprofen treatment (Revhaug 1988).

### **SOME INTRIGUING ELEMENTS.**

1) Endotoxin, has been proposed as a major factor contributing to the pathogenicity of bacterial infection in humans. Unfortunately, direct measurement of circulating endotoxin during clinical gram-negative infections has been inconsistent. Blood levels of endotoxin have correlated poorly with clinical manifestations and outcomes (Stumacher 1973; Elin 1975; Almdahl 1987; Ramsay 1988; Schoeffel 1989). One exception is meningococcal septicemia with shock where good correlation between endotoxin levels and outcome has been reported (Brandtzaeg 1988, Waage 1989).

2) Responses elicited by endotoxin administration in animal models are non-specific and can be mimicked by other substances (gram-positive bacteria, fungi,

toxic compounds, etc.) and the same problem has actually been documented in clinical sepsis (Parker 1975).

3) Endotoxin tolerance does not develop in clinical conditions of sepsis (i.e. typhoid fever), whilst it is a particularly relevant phenomenon in all species of mammals tested. Even more, volunteers render tolerant to endotoxin exhibited no discernible reduction in pyrexia or toxemia during infection with *S. typhosa* or *P. tularensis* (Greisman 1968) suggesting that endotoxemia can play no major role in the sustained fever and toxemia of typhoid fever and tularemia (Hornick 1978; Butler 1978).

4) The C3H/HeJ strain of mice which is naturally resistant to LPS and fails to produce TNF and other mediators that are considered to be the reason for damage after a challenge with LPS is more sensitive to *Salmonella* (McCabe 1981) or *E. coli* (Cross 1989) infection than related LPS sensitive strains, contrary to what would be predicted from the classical belief. A paradox exists where those animals virtually unresponsive to the lethal activity of LPS are more highly susceptible to mortality from gram-negative bacterial infection (von Jerney 1977). Furthermore, pre-treatment of the HeJ mice with a combination of TNF & IL-1 protected these mice from infection with an inoculum of *E. coli* of greater than 20 LD<sub>50</sub> (Cross 1989).

5) BCG, zymosan, *C. parvum* and *C. granulorum* primed mice are more sensitive to LPS (and produce higher levels of TNF after an LPS injection) than non-primed controls but primed animals are not more sensitive to *Salmonella typhimurium* or other infections than the non-primed counterparts, and actually in most cases, the same priming treatment that induces reticuloendothelial hyperplasia and hypersensitivity to endotoxin, induces higher production of TNF after LPS injection (Carswell 1975; Green 1977) and confers resistance from infections (Senterfitt 1968; Joyce 1978).

In experimental models, exogenous TNF confers resistance to infections with *E. coli* (Cross 1989), cutaneous leishmaniasis (Titus 1989), *L. monocytogenes* (Havell 1987 and 1989; Desiderio 1989; Nakane 1988), *Plasmodium chabaudi* (Clark 1987) and *Bacillus Calmette Guérin* (Kindler 1989). TNF also enhances cytotoxicity for schistosomes of both eosinophils (Silberstein 1986) and platelets (Damonville

1988) and is able to activate neutrophils to kill *Candida albicans* (Djeu 1986) and macrophages to kill *Trypanosoma cruzi* (Wirth 1988); administered TNF is also able to increase survival after caecal ligation and puncture in mice (Urbaschek 1987).

6) In humans, high serum TNF levels have been beneficial and not necessarily lethal in large proportion of patients with parasitic infections (Scuderi 1986), and cancer (Balkwill 1987); TNF levels have very rarely been identified in clinical sepsis or bacteremia other than meningococemia or other forms of meningitis (Waage 1986), while high serum TNF levels are readily detectable after LPS injection even when very low doses are administered (Michie 1988a).

7) Once TNF was cloned, it was realized that with one exception, recombinant TNF behaved exactly as one would have predicted from work with the natural product, that is, it caused hemorrhagic necrosis of mouse tumors, showed the same pattern of cytotoxic reactivity for specific murine and human cell lines, and had synergistic cytotoxic activity with interferon. What Old and colleagues had not seen in a large experience using natural TNF was lethality, and even though mice injected with nonrecombinant sources of TNF showed some ruffling of fur and weight loss; they never saw death attributable to TNF alone. Old speculates that TNF dose, impurities contaminating the cytokine or different structure in the recombinant preparations could be the cause of this discrepancy (Old 1985). In agreement with this speculation, several groups have recently shown that ultra-pure preparations of rTNF are non-lethal or incapable of inducing necrosis of the skin (Neilson 1989; Rothstein 1988). In Mathison's experience with a rabbit model, during the iv infusion of TNF fever was registered but no changes were detected on the mean arterial pressure of white blood cells (Mathison 1988).

8) Inter-species differences in TNF potency and effects are also important. We (not shown) as well as others (Fiers, Aggarwal and Baglioni in: Palladino 1987) have detected that using the L929 assay, natural murine TNF which is glycosylated is several-fold more toxic than natural or recombinant human TNF both which are non-glycosylated; also according to Smith (1986) human TNF competes 30-fold less effectively than murine TNF for binding to murine TNF receptors. Another example of inter-species variation was presented by Zuckerman and Bendele who showed that dexamethasone was unable to reduce LPS induced TNF levels in serum

and to affect survival in guinea pigs challenged with a lethal dose of endotoxin while being able to do so in the mouse (Zuckerman 1989).

These facts again alerted us not to over-interpret results obtained by different preparations of TNF nor to neglect important inter-species differences in susceptibility to the mediators but rather to consider that in different species a highly conserved gene such as TNF might have qualitatively or quantitatively different roles and regulatory mechanisms.

Although the above observations do not entirely exclude the participation of endotoxin in the pathogenesis of the clinical manifestations of gram-negative bacillary infections, they do cast considerable doubt on the widely held concept that circulating endotoxin released during the course of gram-negative infections is primarily and almost totally responsible for the pathophysiologic changes observed during such infections.

In a recent publication, Simpson et al stated that "...at the very least, the evidence for TNF as a major, or even "the" ("the" in quotation marks in the original) major mediator of septic and endotoxin shock is quite compelling" (Simpson 1989). Whereas TNF may be able to induce all the signs of septic shock, a host of other mediators many of them with lethal potentialities are induced by LPS and to disregard their existence and participation in this complex process is quite fatuous. This overestimation of a single mediator as a causal factor for the irreversibility of the shock syndrome is not new. Parratt put it this way: "... one might legitimately conclude from much of the published literature that catecholamines, or histamine, of prostaglandins or angiotensin or endorphins etc. are each ultimately responsible for the irreversibility in shock. Such conclusions have in fact been drawn" (Parant 1983). It is possible that Simpson is neglecting that there is a gap that separating gram-negative bacterial infection from the cascade of events triggered by lipopolysaccharide administration.

The body's infection-fighting capabilities were designed to remain localized with the ultimate goal of containment and subsequent eradication of the infecting insult. The mediators discussed in this section for the most part appear to perform most appropriately on this localized level. If the infectious process escapes the localizing efforts and becomes systemic, the organism's infection-fighting process also becomes systemic, and on this level it may be more toxic than therapeutic (Meakins 1988).

## CONCEPTION AND SCOPE OF THIS THESIS

One of the most unique features of endotoxin is its capacity to activate soluble factors, immune and inflammatory cell populations and to elicit the release of a wide spectrum of host effector molecules that in one way or another have been linked to the pathogenesis of septic shock.

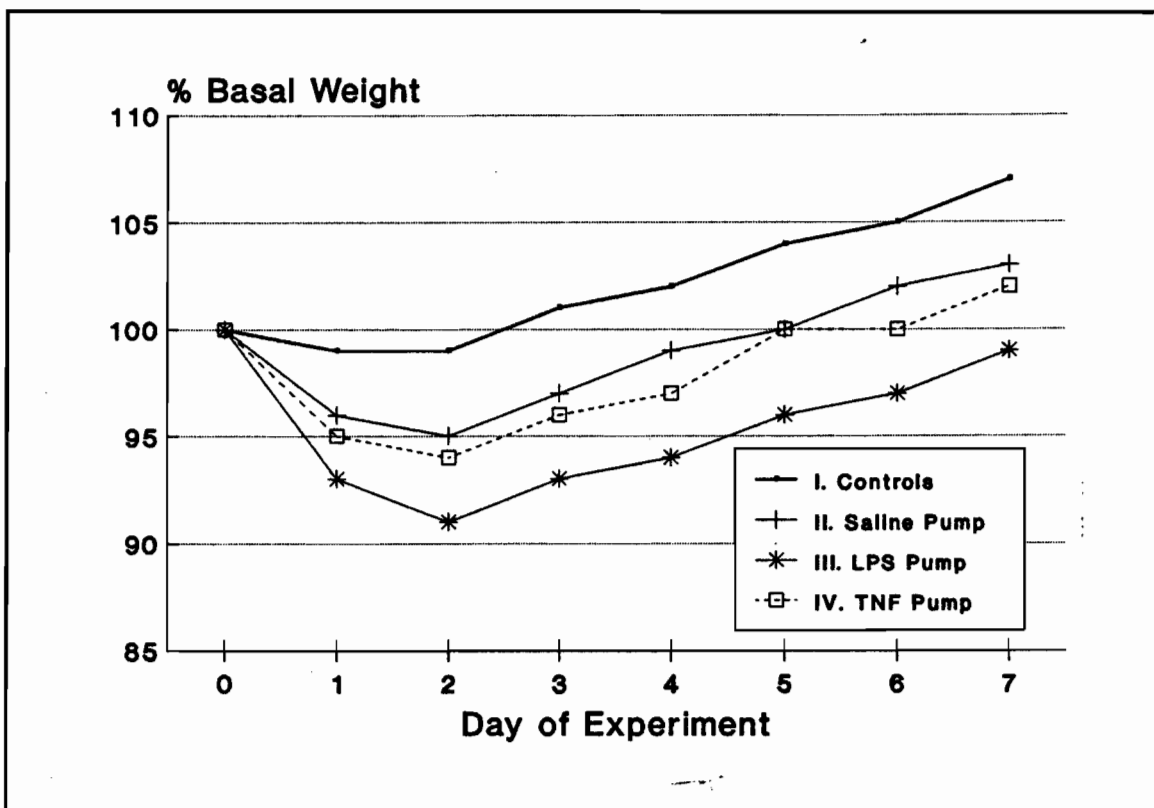
While attempting to develop an animal model of anergy (lack of response to a Delayed Type Hypersensitivity Reaction [DTH] eliciting stimulus) by the systemic administration of LPS or TNF (Sánchez-Cantú 1989), several observations lead us to the study of endotoxin tolerance.

As proposed by Lefer (Lefer 1973) and expanded by Meakins and Marshall (Corrigo 1986), Multiple System Organ Failure (MOSF) is associated with changes in intestinal flora, coupled with impairment of the normal barrier function of the GI tract which allow the bowel to serve as a reservoir of endotoxin and pathogens that can enter the portal and systemic circulation and fuel the ongoing septic process. Along similar lines, in the model we used, it was assumed that exogenous continuous administration of endotoxin or TNF could alter the immune system provoking among other consequences, anergy.

Rats previously sensitized with Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin (KLH) were immunized with tetanus toxoid (TT) and implanted with osmotic intraperitoneal pumps filled with 0.9 mg of LPS (*E. coli* O127:B8) or 50  $\mu$ g of rMu-TNF- $\alpha$ . Appropriate controls were included. DTH reaction to KLH, anti-TT antibody production, and a nonspecific immune response (containment of an intradermal inoculum of *S aureus*) were measured at appropriate times.

A modest reduction in the size of DTH skin reaction in the LPS treated group was shown. No difference in the resulting *S. aureus* skin lesion in any of the groups was disclosed and equally positive anti-TT antibody production in all groups were measured demonstrating no effect in antibody dependent immunity or in non-specific immune mechanisms (data not shown).

Weight loss accompanied by piloerection, poor ingestion, apathy, diarrhea, purulent urine and conjunctival secretion were seen for the first 2 days in the experimental groups, more pronounced in the LPS group. In spite of continued LPS or TNF infusion, a state of refractoriness seemed to develop as improvement in the general physical conditions of the animals, and increased food and water ingestion and body weight were evident starting on day three (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Effect of Continuous Administration of TNF or LPS on Body Weight. Minipumps containing *E. coli* LPS (900  $\mu$ g), or rMuTNF- $\alpha$  (50  $\mu$ g) in a volume of 0.2 mL to be delivered in 7 days were implanted on Day 0 in the peritoneal cavity of a group of rats. One group was implanted with pumps containing saline solution and another control group was exposed only to anesthesia (Controls). Daily body weight measurement is reported.

The model showed that cell-mediated immunity decreased somewhat by the systemic administration of LPS or TNF while apparently having little effect upon the humoral and nonspecific inflammatory responses. More striking however was that eventhough there was continuous administration of LPS or TNF, a refractoriness to their effects was taking place.

We tried to compare what was present in our model of LPS or TNF administration with endotoxin tolerance as described in the literature under three general premises: (1) the remarkable similarity between the effects of endotoxin in experimental models and the symptoms observed in patients with gram-negative sepsis have generated a broadly accepted belief in their cause and effect relation; (2) it is the host's response to LPS rather than a direct toxic effect seemingly the most important factor in the pathophysiology of sepsis in gram-negative clinical infections; (3) if tolerance to the toxic effects of endotoxin could be induced in patients with high risk of developing sepsis, this could be a promising model for immunomodulation protecting infected patients from septic shock or MSOF syndrome.

Moreover, as the evidence that links endotoxin with septic shock is largely circumstantial and more research in the immune and inflammatory response to endotoxin are unquestionably needed, this line of research promised to be rewarding in every way.

With these facts in mind we set up our objectives and studied the following problems.

The role of TNF in mediating the toxic effects of LPS.

The role of TNF in endotoxin tolerance.

The role of TNF in models of sepsis that use live gram-negative organisms instead of pure endotoxin.

Therapeutic value of endotoxin tolerance in the prevention of septic shock in a relevant model of sepsis.

The achievement of these objectives was guided by the following working hypothesis.

Tumor Necrosis Factor is not a *sine qua non* condition for lethality in endotoxin shock. Bacterial endotoxin and TNF are not mandatory elements in the pathophysiology of models of sepsis other than administration of pure endotoxin. Thus in the clinical forms of gram-negative sepsis endotoxin and/or tumor necrosis factor might not play a major role.



## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### ANIMALS

F1 Lou/Lewis (inbred) male or female rats (150-400g weight) were bred in our animal colony.

Wistar (outbred) male rats Crl:(WI)BR were purchased from Charles River Canada Inc. St-Constant, Quebec.

All animals were fed with regular rat chow and tap water. They were housed at 2 or 3 per cage and maintained in a 12 hr dark/light cycle at a temperature of 70 to 73 °F.

All procedures were approved by the Animal Care Committee of McGill University.

### LIPOPOLYSACCHARIDES

*E. coli* O127:B8, Cat. 3880-25 Bacto, Difco Laboratories, Detroit, Mich (TCA acid extract).

*E. coli* O26:B6, Cat. L-3254 Sigma Chemical Co., St Louis, Mo (Phenol extract).

*E. coli* O111:B4, Cat. L 2630 Sigma (Phenol extract).

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, Cat. L 9143 Sigma (Phenol extract).

*Salmonella typhosa*, Cat. L 6386 Sigma (Phenol extract).

All LPS preparations were diluted in pyrogen free 0.9% NaCl solution for administration in a volume of 1 mL/100 g body weight unless stated otherwise.

### DEVICES

Alzet miniosmotic pumps model 2001 Cat. 4708-0, Alza Corporation, Palo Alto, Calif.

Filters. 0.22  $\mu$ m Stock No. 140666 Nuclepore, Toronto, Ontario.

96 flat bottom well tissue culture plates, Cat. 3072 Falcon, Becton-Dickinson Canada, Mississauga, Ontario.

96 flat bottom well EIA microtitration plates, Cat. 76-381-04, Linbro/Titertek, Flow Laboratories Inc. McLean, Va.

ELISA reader, Minireader II Dynatech, Alexandria, Va.

Capillary tubes. (Plain, soda lime glass) Cat. 2502, I.D. 1.1-1.2 mm, Chase instruments Co. Glen Falls, NY.

Autoclips. (9 mm stainless steel), No.B2355-100 wound clips, Clay-Adams Inc., Parsippany NJ.

Spectronic 710 spectrophotometer, Cat 34-4002, Bausch & Lomb, Rochester NY.

## **DRUGS**

Atropine sulfate, 0.6 mg/mL, DIN 705500, Prod. No 454, Astra Pharma Inc. Mississauga, Ontario.

Ketalar (ketamine hydrochloride) Cat. 26980, Parke-Davis Canada Inc. Scarborough, Ontario.

Rompun (xylazine) Cat. 6894, Miles Pharmaceuticals, Rexdale, Ontario.

Ethyl Ether for Anesthesia, E136-1. Fisher Scientific, Fair Lawn, NJ.

## **TISSUE CULTURE CONSTITUENTS**

RPMI-1640, Cat. 430-1800 Gibco, Burlington, Ontario.

Fetal Bovine Serum [FBS] Cat. 29-161-54 Flow Laboratories Inc.

L-Glutamine, Cat. 320-5039, Gibco.

Gentamycin sulfate Cat. G-3632, SIGMA.

2-Mercaptoethanol, Cat. MX309 CQ6377 Matheson Coleman & Bell, Norwood, Ontario.

Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline [PBS] Cat. 450-1300 Gibco.

## **OTHER REAGENTS**

Saline Solution, 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection USP, JB1302, DIN 309400, Travenol Canada Inc., Mississauga, Ontario.

10% Dextrose Injection USP, JB0163, DIN 308811, Travenol.

Actinomycin D, Cat. A-1410, SIGMA.

rMuTNF- $\alpha$ , a gift of Genentech, Inc. South San Francisco, Calif.

MTT, ([3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide] Cat. M-2128, SIGMA.

Isopropyl Alcohol, Cat. A-419, Fisher Scientific.

Hydrochloric Acid, Cat. A-144-500, Fisher Scientific.

BaSO<sub>4</sub>. U.S.P. XIX, Cat. K90266, BDH Chemicals, Montreal, Quebec.

Peroxidase Conjugated, AffiniPure Rabbit anti-rat IgM,  $\mu$  chain specific, Cat. 312-035-020, Jackson Immunoresearch Labs. West Grove, Pa.

Peroxidase Conjugated, AffiniPure Rabbit Anti-Rat IgG, F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment specific, Cat. 312-035-006, Jackson Immunoresearch Labs.

BSA. Bovine Serum Albumin. Fraction V Cat. 735 108. (Lyophilised), Boehringer Mannheim GmbH. West Germany.

Sodium Azide. Cat. S-227<sup>I</sup>, Fischer Scientific.

ABTS. 2,2'-Azino-bis(3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) diammonium salt. Crystalline. Cat. A 1888, SIGMA.

Citric Acid (anhydrous). Cat. BP339-500, Fisher Biotech.

Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, Sodium Phosphate, dibasic (anhydrous). Cat. S-374, Fisher Scientific

H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Hydrogen Peroxide (0.003%) Cat. H324-500, Fisher Scientific.

NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. Sodium bicarbonate, Cat. S-233 Fisher Scientific.

Blood/Agar Culture Dish. Quelab #1440 Columbia Sang, Montreal, Quebec.

Brain-Heart Infusion Broth (BHI) McGill University, Microbiology Department.

### **LPS TREATMENT**

Lipopolysaccharide (*E. coli* 0127:B8) was either injected intra-peritoneally (ip) in 1 mL/100 g body weight volume of pyrogen free saline solution or delivered by continuous infusion through an ip implanted osmotic pump with a capacity for 0.2 mL delivered over 7 days.

### **BLOOD SAMPLES**

Blood was obtained by retro-orbital plexus puncture (Waynforth 1980), with a capillary tube, under light ethyl ether anesthesia and centrifuged (3000 rpm x 20 min. at 6°C). Serum was stored at -70 °C until processed. For TNF determination, samples were thawed at room temperature immediately before processing, diluted 1:10 in complete RPMI media, and filter-sterilized (0.22  $\mu$ m filters). For quantitative blood cultures, samples were obtained inside a laminar flow-hood by retro-orbital plexus puncture with a sterile capillary tube. Five drops of freely running blood (considered as 0.2 mL) were collected into 1.8 mL

of ice-cold 0.9% NaCl sterile solution (1:10 dilution). After vigorous vortexing, three further tenfold dilutions were produced in saline and 3 spots of 20  $\mu$ L from each dilution were plated on blood/agar plates. After 24 hours of incubation at 37 °C, the number of colonies were counted for each dilution and were morphologically identified. Peritoneal cavity exudate cultures were done essentially in the same way from a 0.2 mL sample obtained under direct view after reopening the abdominal incision.

### **INTRAPERITONEAL PUMP PLACEMENT**

The Alzet osmotic infusion pump consists of a rigid case made of a semipermeable polymer containing hyperosmotic fluid. The case also contains a flexible reservoir which holds the experimental solution (LPS or TNF in these experiments). As free water moves through the semipermeable case from the peritoneal cavity into the hyperosmotic fluid the experimental solution is displaced from the pump reservoir through an exit port-hole into the abdominal cavity at a constant rate. The capacity of the reservoir in this model is 0.2 mL and it delivers the content over 7 days (Alzet 1986). The pumps were surgically implanted as follows. Atropine sulfate 0.5 mg/kg was given intramuscularly (im) 15 minutes before anesthesia with Ketamine (20 mg/kg) and Xylazine (4mg/kg) im. The abdomen was clipped and sterilized with 70% ethyl alcohol and through a 1 cm midline incision, the pre-loaded pump (0.2 mL volume) was introduced into the peritoneal cavity. Thirty mL/kg of 0.45% NaCl solution in 5% dextrose were administered ip at the same time. The incision was closed in two layers, 4-0 silk running suture for peritoneum and muscle, and skin with wound clips. While still under the effect of anesthesia which lasted about 15 minutes, animals are kept under a radiant heat lamp. The animals were allowed free access to food and water in the post-operative period.

These osmotic pumps have a latent period of four hours after implantation to start the infusion of their content so for the analysis of the kinetics of TNF production under continuous LPS administration, the pumps were "primed" before being installed incubating them 4 hours at 37 °C immersed in isotonic saline solution; under these conditions the latent period required was obviated so the content started to flow immediately upon implantation of the pump into the abdominal cavity of the animals (Alzet 1986).

### CAECAL LIGATION AND PUNCTURE

Rats were fasted overnight, water allowed *ad lib*. At 8:00 (Time 0) atropine (0.5 mg/kg) and 20 minutes later ketamine (20 mg/kg) and Xylazine (4 mg/kg) were injected im (Canadian Council on Animal Care, 1984). Once unconscious the abdomen was clipped, sterilized with 70% ethyl alcohol and a 2 cm midline celiotomy practiced. The caecum was identified, exposed and filled with feces (if not all ready full) by milking stool back from the ascending colon. The avascular aspect of the caecal mesentery was severed to free the organ as much as possible. The caecum was then ligated on its base distal to the ileocaecal valve with a 3-0 silk suture (bowel continuity preserved), and the antimesenteric surface punctured twice with a 18 gauge needle. It was ensured that holes in the punctures were properly created by squeezing some stool out of them. The bowel was replaced into the peritoneal cavity, and the abdomen closed in two layers (Wichterman 1980). Rats received subcutaneously 5 mL/100 g body weight of saline solution.

In the postoperative period animals were allowed free access to water and food. Twelve hours post-operative, survivors received an other sub-cutaneous saline injection of 5 mL/100 g body weight.

### TNF BIOASSAY

The standard cytotoxicity assay was used on the TNF-sensitive L929 cell line (Mosmann 1983; Green 1984). The cell line was kindly provided by Dr. Fred Nestell, Department of Physiology, McGill University. One hundred  $\mu$ L of  $2.5 \times 10^5$  cells/mL of L929 cells suspended in complete RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% FBS (heat inactivated at 56 °C for 30 min.), L-Glutamine (300  $\mu$ g/mL), Gentamycin sulfate (10  $\mu$ g/mL) and 2-Mercaptoethanol ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) were seeded on 96-well flat bottom plates and cultured overnight at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO<sub>2</sub> 95% air to establish a subconfluent monolayer (L929 cells are more sensitive to TNF when subconfluent, that is, touching each other but before they become round and packed together at maximum). The media was removed and 50  $\mu$ L of 4  $\mu$ g/mL actinomycin D in complete RPMI media was added to each well followed by 50  $\mu$ L of serial dilutions (begining with 1:10) of serum samples in complete media obtaining a final concentration of 2  $\mu$ g/mL actinomycin D. Serial dilutions of rMuTNF-alfa

(specific activity  $2 \times 10^7$  Units/mg) were included to construct a standard curve and to detect major variations in sensitivity (Figure 4). After 18 to 20 hours of further incubation 20  $\mu$ L/well of freshly prepared MTT (4 mg/mL in PBS) were added and the plates incubated for an additional 4 hours at 37 °C. Thereafter, the supernatant was removed, 100  $\mu$ L of acid isopropyl alcohol (0.04 N HCl) added and 5 minutes later 100  $\mu$ L of distilled water. Plates were read within 15 minutes with an ELISA reader using a 550 nm filter.

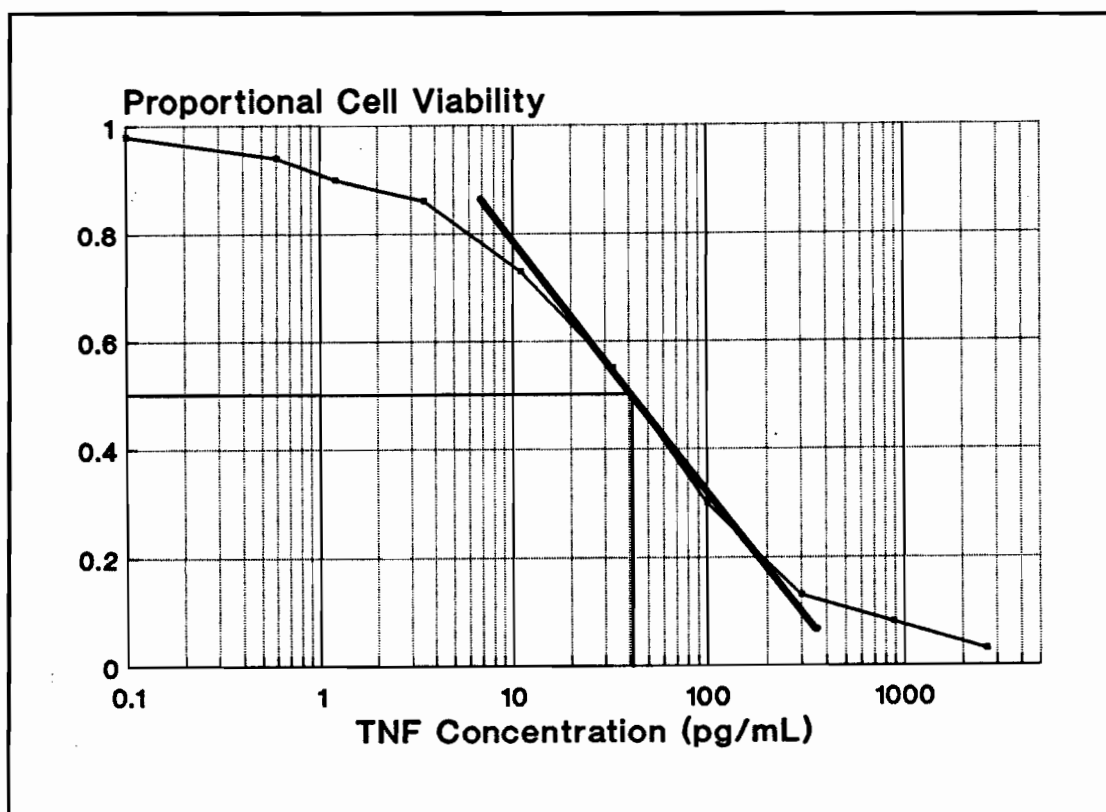
Each sample was assayed in triplicate and all samples from each experiment were tested in a single assay. The results are expressed as Units/0.1 mL instead of weight of TNF in order to correct for minor differences in sensitivity from assay to assay. One Unit of activity was defined as the amount of TNF required to produce a 50 % decrease in absorbance relative to control cells exposed to actinomycin D alone. After several assays with the standard rMu-TNF- $\alpha$ , 1 unit was found to be equivalent to  $35 \pm 17$  pg TNF and when the sensitivity was found to be outside this value, the assay was repeated. The dilution chosen to do the calculations for each sample was that which more closely approached the 1 Unit reading on the standard curve. The quantity of TNF in the experimental samples is equivalent to the activity (in units) read on the standard curve (Figure 4) for the optical density of the sample dilution, times the reciprocal of the dilution ( $U/0.1 \text{ mL} = \text{units in the curve for the OD in the sample} \times 1/\text{dilution}$ ).

### MEASUREMENT OF ANTIBODIES

ELISA Technique (Voller et al, 1979). Flat bottom wells (EIA microtitration plate) were loaded with the antigen (50  $\mu$ g/mL solution of *E. coli* O127:B8 or *S. typhi* LPS in coating buffer:  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  PBS with 0.01 M  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  pH 9.6 and 0.02%  $\text{NaN}_3$ , 200  $\mu$ L/well) and left overnight at room temperature in a humid environment.

On the following morning, wells were emptied and washed twice with 250  $\mu$ L/well 0.1% BSA in PBS (with 0.02% azide). Wells were then loaded with 200  $\mu$ L of 1% BSA in PBS and incubated for 1 hour at room temperature (to block the non-specific receptor sites on the well's surface). Wells were then washed twice with 150  $\mu$ L/well 0.1% BSA in PBS (with Azide). Serial dilutions of the samples were loaded (100  $\mu$ L/well) (1:100 - 1:12800) and incubated 1 hr at room

temperature. After 3 more washes with 0.1% BSA in PBS (azide free), 100  $\mu$ L of peroxidase conjugated Rabbit anti-rat IgG or IgM (1:1000 dilution of stock solution) was added, plates were incubated for 1 hour at room temperature and then again washed 3 times with 0.1% BSA in PBS (azide free). The substrate (0.5g/L ABTS, 0.1M citric acid, 0.05M  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$ , 0.003%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , pH adjusted to 4.3) was added (100  $\mu$ L/well), and incubated in the dark for 15 min. 100  $\mu$ L of 0.1% azide in PBS was added to each well to stop the reaction and the plate read with a 410 nm filter on the ELISA reader.



**Figure 4.** L929 Cytotoxicity Assay. Standard Dose/Response Curve for rMuTNF- $\alpha$ . L929 cells were incubated with serial dilutions of rMuTNF- $\alpha$ . Cytotoxicity was measured in a colorimetric assay and expressed as proportional cell viability. The OD was plotted to obtain a standard curve in each assay. Proportional cell viability of 1 was equivalent to the OD registered from control wells not exposed to TNF. One unit of activity per 0.1 mL was defined as the amount of TNF required to produce a 50% decrease in absorbance relative to control cells. In the curve shown, 1 U/0.1 mL is equivalent to 42 pg/mL. Serial dilutions of the test samples were incubated in the same way and OD readings were performed on each dilution. The straight segment of the standard curve was used to read out from the OD readings TNF activity present in the samples. This was expressed in Units/0.1 mL and the number of units was then multiplied by the reciprocal of the corresponding dilution factor. The dilution chosen to do the calculations reported as results was the one that more closely approached the 1 unit reading on the standard curve.

To calculate the amount of antibody in the samples, a standard curve was generated with a pool of serum samples selected from the group of rats where we expected high antibody titers. A value of one unit/mL of activity was arbitrarily assigned to the activity present in the dilution that produced an 50% absorbance compared to the highest optical density reading in the undiluted sample pool. The OD in the sample was transformed into an activity value (units/mL) using the standard curve. The reported amount of antibody was calculated from the dilution where the OD more closely approximated the 1 unit/mL absorbance in the standard curve, times the reciprocal of the dilution.

### **LIVE *E. COLI* PREPARATION**

An *E. coli* (NTC-9001)-containing agar slope obtained from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, McGill University, was subcultured overnight on a blood-agar plate at 37°C. Next morning a sample was inoculated into 10 mL of BHI broth and incubated in a water bath at 37°C for 90 minutes. One milliliter was then inoculated into 100 mL of BHI and incubated again in the water bath for 90 minutes. A standard curve was prepared from the spectrophotometric readings. Fifty  $\mu$ L aliquots were obtained every 30 minutes for 6 hours. Serial 10-fold dilutions ( $10^{-2}$  to  $10^{-7}$ ) were done at each time point and OD readings (660 nm filter) as well as further seeding on blood-Agar plates were performed for each dilution. OD readings were plotted against CFU.

To prepare the bacterial suspension, the same steps were followed using up to the 100 mL culture in BHI. This was incubated in accordance to the approximate time needed as estimated from the curve. At that time an OD was taken, the bacterial concentration was adjusted to the one desired and used within 30 minutes while kept on ice. A sample was also plated for further verification of the CFU generated.

### **EUTHANASIA TECHNIQUE**

For terminating an experiment or for ethical reasons, euthanasia was performed by placing the animal for a minimum of 5 minutes in a chamber filled with CO<sub>2</sub> (Canadian Council on Animal Care, 1984).



## **EXPERIMENTAL METHODOLOGY**

Endotoxin tolerance was used as a tool for the analysis of the pathophysiology of septic shock. The experimental methodology can be divided in five parts:

### **I. Response of the naive animal to endotoxin administration.**

Some of the effects provoked by the administration of endotoxin to naive animals, namely lethality, body weight loss and serum TNF levels were described. A naive animal is considered one that has not been previously injected or artificially exposed to LPS.

### **II. Modifications of the response to LPS during the early phase of endotoxin tolerance.**

Responsiveness to a secondary injection with LPS, referred to as "challenge" dose, was modified by previous administration of sublethal doses of LPS referred to as "priming" doses. A systematic study of this modified response in the so called "early tolerant" or simply "tolerant" animal during the early few days (less than 15 days) after the "priming" dose was studied.

### **III. Modification of the response to an unrelated type LPS during early endotoxin tolerance.**

The response of naive rats to different types of LPS and the modified response of the "early tolerant" rat when the type of LPS used to "challenge" was unrelated to the LPS used to "prime" the animal were studied.

### **IV. Response to LPS during the late phase of endotoxin tolerance.**

A modified response to LPS effects known as late LPS tolerance follows the early phase of tolerance once this fades away. This type of response was studied considering 21 days as a landmark defining a complete cycle since the administration of a "priming" dose of LPS until recovery from early endotoxin tolerance and establishment of late phase tolerance was attained. The response to a challenge with an unrelated LPS (an LPS from a different bacteria than the

one used to "prime") during late endotoxin tolerance was evaluated. IgG and IgM anti-LPS antibodies (for both types of LPS used) were also measured.

#### V. Serum TNF levels and endotoxin tolerance in models of sepsis other than LPS administration.

Serum TNF levels generated after the intraperitoneal injection of pure or mixed live bacteria (Browne 1976; Bartlett 1978) or following caecal ligation and puncture were determined. Protection conferred by LPS tolerance using CLP or intraperitoneal *E. coli* injection as lethal challenge was also studied.

### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Unpaired Student t-test was used for comparison of two means.  $\chi^2$  was used for comparison of proportions. Linear regression analysis through the 'least squares' estimation was used to calculate the lethal potency of the different LPS preparations and other values obtained through regression analysis (Colton 1970). One-way ANOVA was used to make comparisons of one variable between several groups (Armitage 1987). A  $p$  value  $< 0.05$  was taken to indicate statistical significance.

In every graphic representation of data, error bars for arithmetic means are always shown as  $\pm$  one Standard Deviation.

## RESULTS

### RESPONSE OF THE NAIVE ANIMAL TO ENDOTOXIN ADMINISTRATION

A series of control experiments were initially performed to determine the effects of endotoxin in naive animals.

#### I. LETHALITY

To define the Dose/Response curve for LPS (*E. coli* O127:B8) lethality, single doses of 1, 5, 10, 25, 40 and 60 mg/kg of LPS were injected ip into F1 Lou/Lewis female rats (165-180 g body weight, 10 animals per dose). Figure 5 shows survival rate at 72 hours. None of the animals died in the two lowest dose groups (1 and 5 mg/kg) and all rats in the 60 mg/kg group died. The LD<sub>50</sub> was estimated as 24.2 mg/kg and the LD<sub>100</sub> as 47.1 mg/kg by regression analysis.

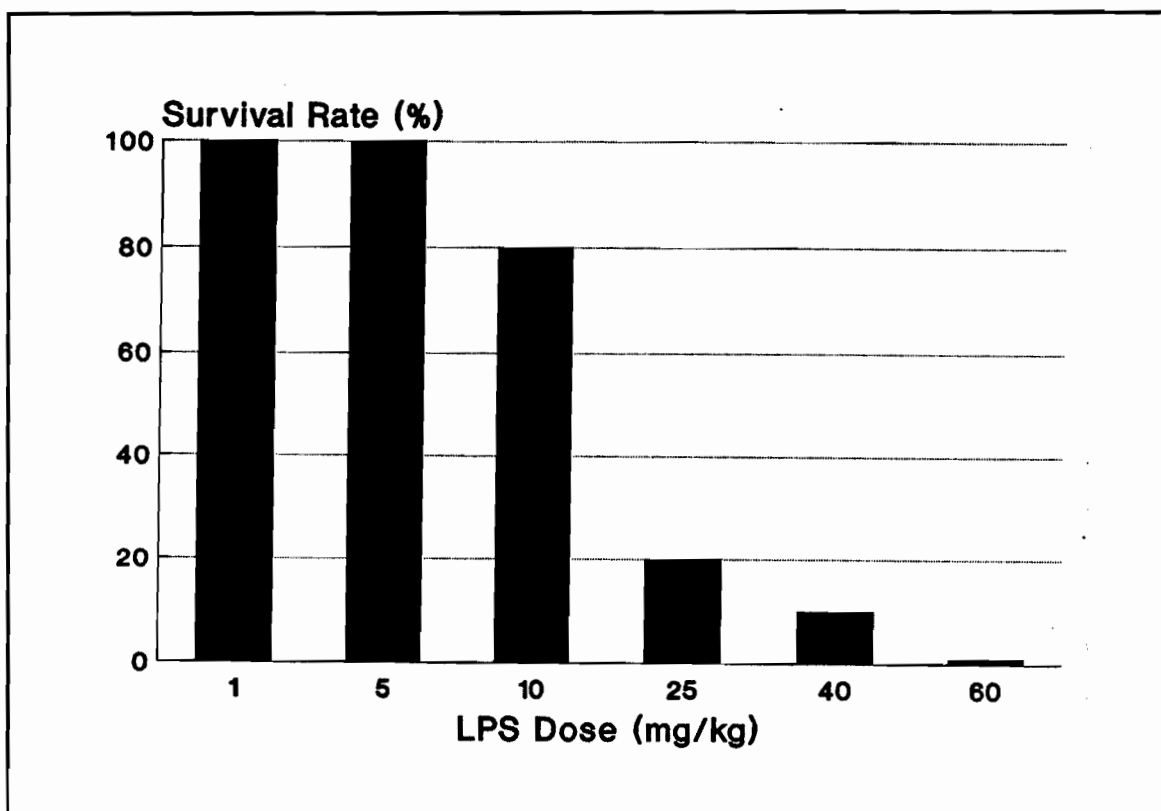


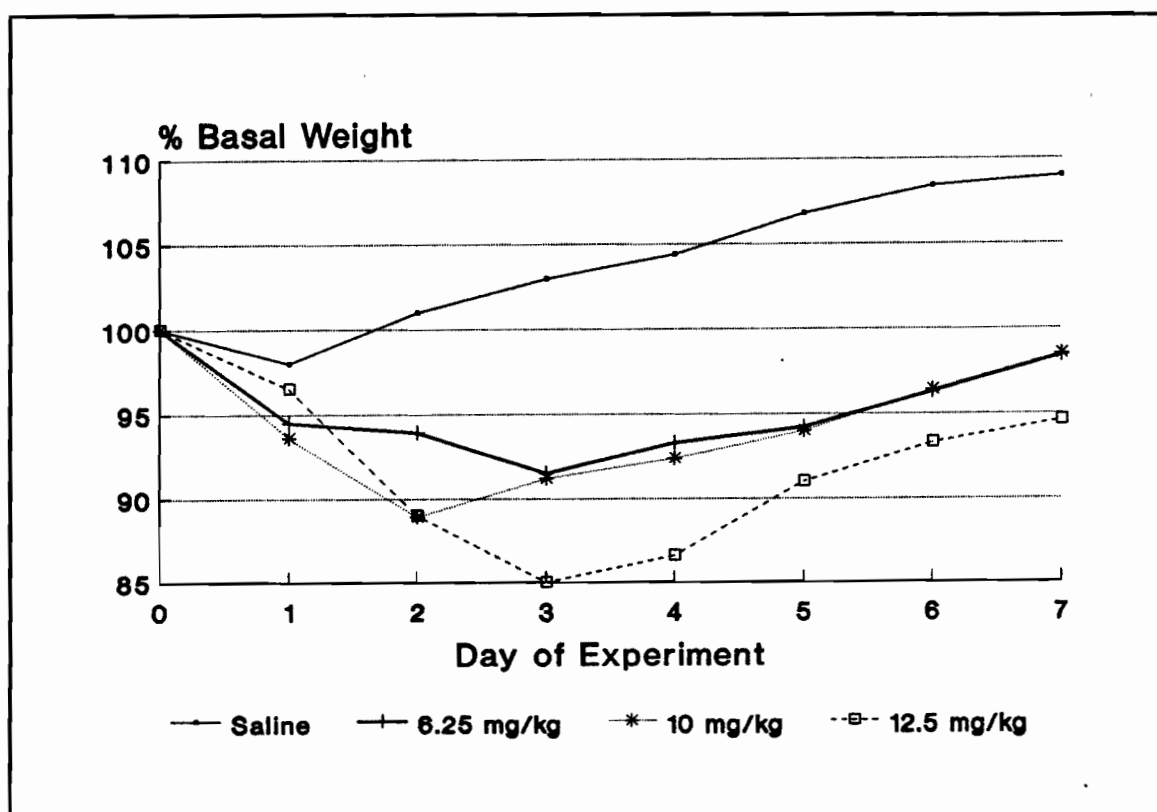
Figure 5. Lethal Effect of LPS. Dose/Response Curve. Naive rats were injected ip with 1, 5, 10, 25, 40 or 60 mg/kg of LPS (10 rats/dose). Survival at 72 hours is shown.

## II. WEIGHT LOSS

The effect of single intraperitoneal injections, repeated daily doses and constant intraperitoneal infusion of LPS on weight loss was determined.

### A) Single Injections of LPS.

Doses of 6.25, 10, or 12.5 mg/kg of LPS were injected into F1 (Lou/Lewis) male rats (6 rats/group). A control group received saline (10 mL/kg). Body weight was monitored for 7 days. One rat died in the 6.25 mg/kg group and 2 in the 12.5 mg/kg group and are excluded from the curves. The animals exhibited a steady weight loss for 2 to 3 days, which was most pronounced in the highest dose group, followed by recovery from day 3 onwards as represented in Figure 6.



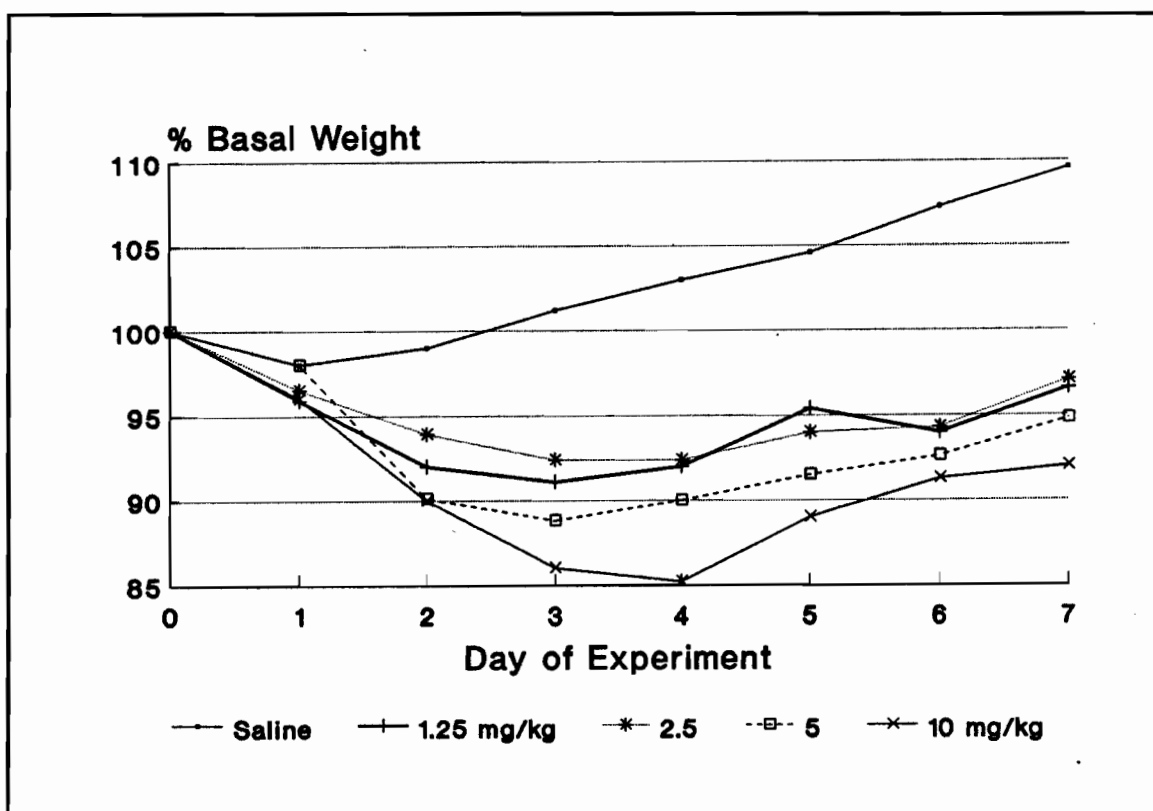
**Figure 6.** Effect of Single Dose of LPS on Body Weight. Single ip injections of 6.25, 10 or 12.5 mg/kg of LPS were given on Day 0 to 3 groups of naive rats. A control group was injected with saline (6 rats/group). Body weight was measured for 7 days.

### B) Repeated Injections of LPS.

Daily doses of 1.25, 2.5, 5, or 10 mg/kg/dose of LPS were given on four consecutive days. Controls received 10 mL/kg saline solution daily for four days. Body weight and overall clinical effect were registered. Male F1 Lou/Lewis rats

( $345 \pm 30$  g) were used (5 rats/group). One rat died in the 10 mg/kg/dose group and is excluded from the analysis.

Weight loss was again evident for three days (Figure 7) except in the highest dose group which still had a mild average loss until day 4. During the first 2 days, rats were lethargic most of the time, had liquid stools, purulent urine, conjunctival bloody secretion and poor appetite. In spite of being injected once more on day 3, most of the rats started to regain weight from day 3 onward and had improved general conditions starting on day 3 which substantiates the fact that they were no longer sensitive to the effect of LPS.



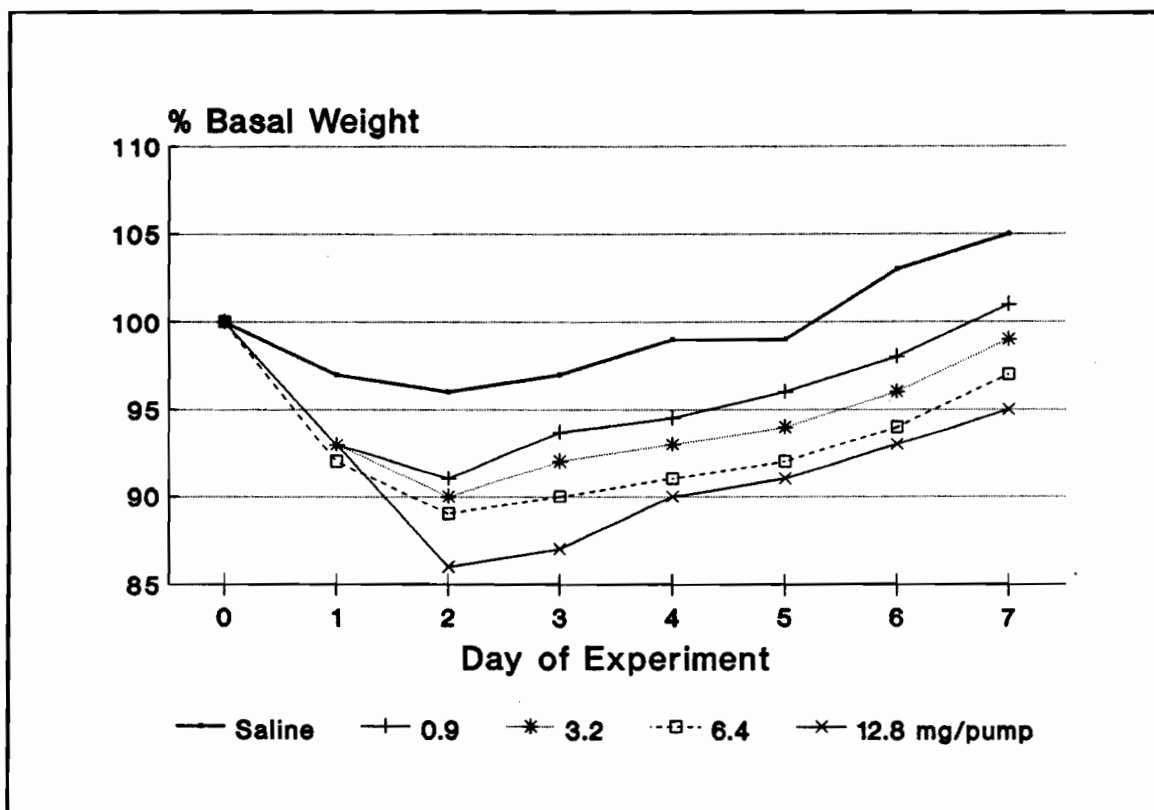
**Figure 7.** Effect of Repeated Doses of LPS on Body Weight. Daily doses of 1.25, 2.5, 5 and 10 mg/kg per dose of LPS were given to 4 groups of rats on four consecutive days starting on Day 0. A control group received four injections of saline solution. Body weight was measured for 7 days.

### C) Continuous Intraperitoneal Infusion of LPS.

Pumps containing different concentrations of LPS to be delivered over 7 days were implanted in the abdominal cavity and body weight was monitored.

Symptomatology was also registered. F1 male Lou/Lewis rats (weights 250-277 g) were used (4 rats/group). Pumps were loaded with saline (controls) or with the following amounts of LPS: 4.5 mg/mL (0.9 mg/pump), 16 mg/mL (3.2 mg/pump), 32 mg/mL (6.4 mg/pump) or 64 mg/mL (12.8 mg/pump). At the end of the experiment rats were killed, the peritoneal cavity was examined and the pumps inspected.

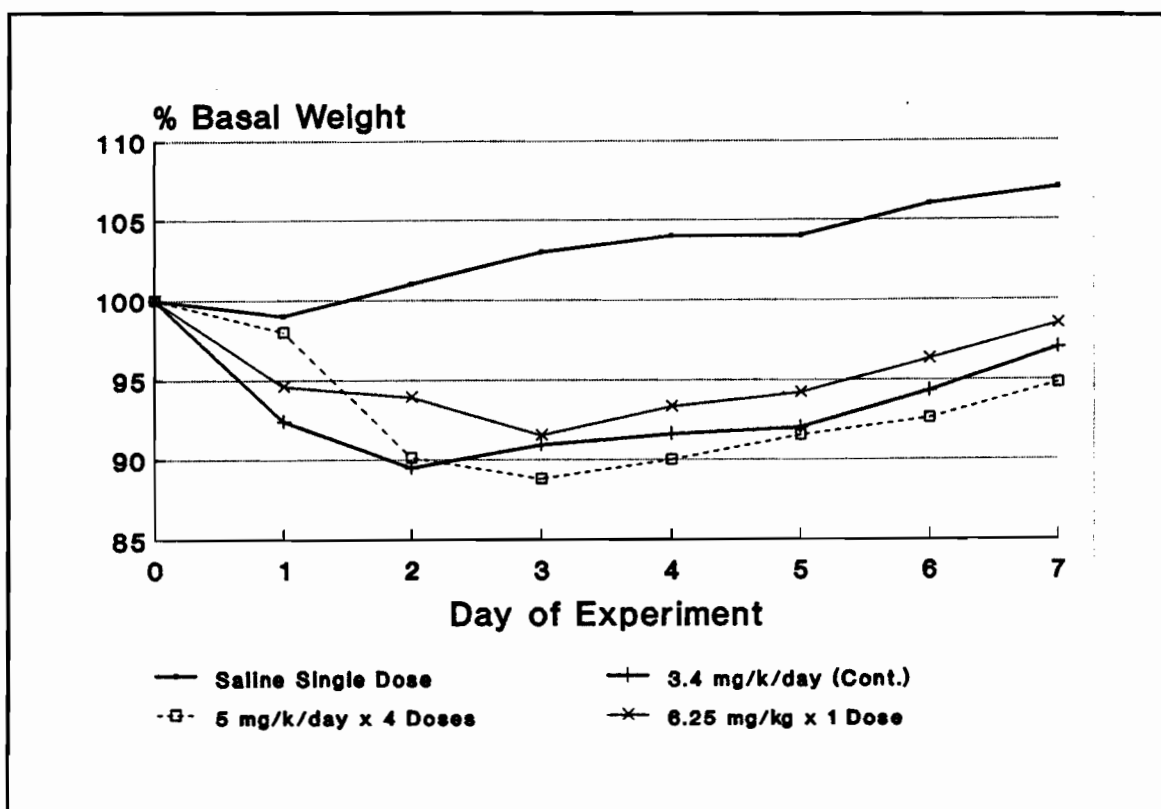
As in the previous 2 experiments, weight loss proportional in magnitude to the concentration of LPS was observed for 2 days after the infusion began and was followed by recovery thereafter. Figure 8 shows weight curves. This was duplicated in the general conditions of the rats. No deaths were observed in any group. Examination of the pumps showed that in every case their content was fully voided. There was little peritoneal reaction manifested in the form of loose omental adhesions to the pump. No gross inflammatory exudate or macroscopic evidence of chronic inflammation were detected.



**Figure 8.** Effect of Continuous Infusion of LPS on Body Weight. Minipumps containing 0.9, 3.2, 6.4 or 12.8 mg per pump of LPS delivering their load over 7 days were implanted ip on Day 0 into 4 groups of rats. Control pumps contained saline solution. Body weight was measured for 7 days.

It is generally accepted that most of the biological effects of endotoxin are not due to a direct action upon the target tissue or cell; instead endogenous mediators generated mainly by cells of the monocyte/macrophage lineage after exposure to LPS are thought to be responsible of the final impact of LPS.

At this point it was unknown if the lack of sensitivity evident in endotoxin tolerance was due to lack of production of the endogenous mediators of LPS such as TNF or if the mediators were still produced but there was indeed a lack of responsiveness to the signal carried by the mediators.

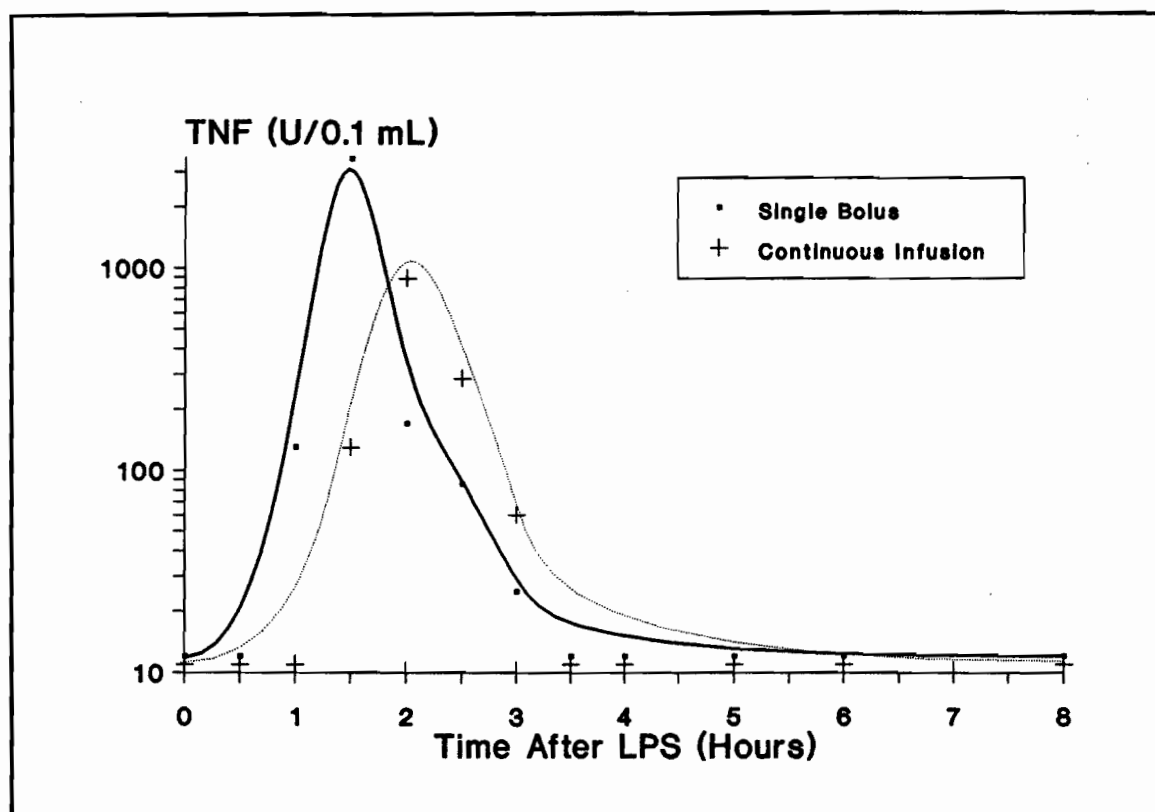


**Figure 9.** Effect on Body Weight Induced by Different Methods of LPS Administration. The effect of a single ip dose of 6.25 mg/kg of LPS (Day 0), four daily ip doses of 5 mg/kg/day of LPS (Day 0, 1, 2 and 3) continuous ip infusion of 3.4 mg/kg/day of LPS (from Day 0 to Day 7) or a single ip injection of saline solution (Day 0) on body weight are shown.

### III. PRODUCTION OF TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR

As TNF is postulated to be one of the main endogenous mediators of the toxic effects of LPS *in vivo*, the next objective was then to display the relation between LPS administered and the serum levels of TNF generated.

First, the kinetics of serum TNF levels after ip LPS injection were established in two groups of male Wistar rats (6 per group). One group received a single ip bolus injection of 0.5 mg/kg LPS (*E. coli* O127:B8). Rats in the second group were implanted ip with primed osmotic minipumps (primed in order for the pump to start to deliver its content immediately after being installed) loaded with 0.2 mL of a 20 mg/mL solution of LPS. Blood samples were obtained every 30 minutes over 8 hours and serum TNF levels were determined.

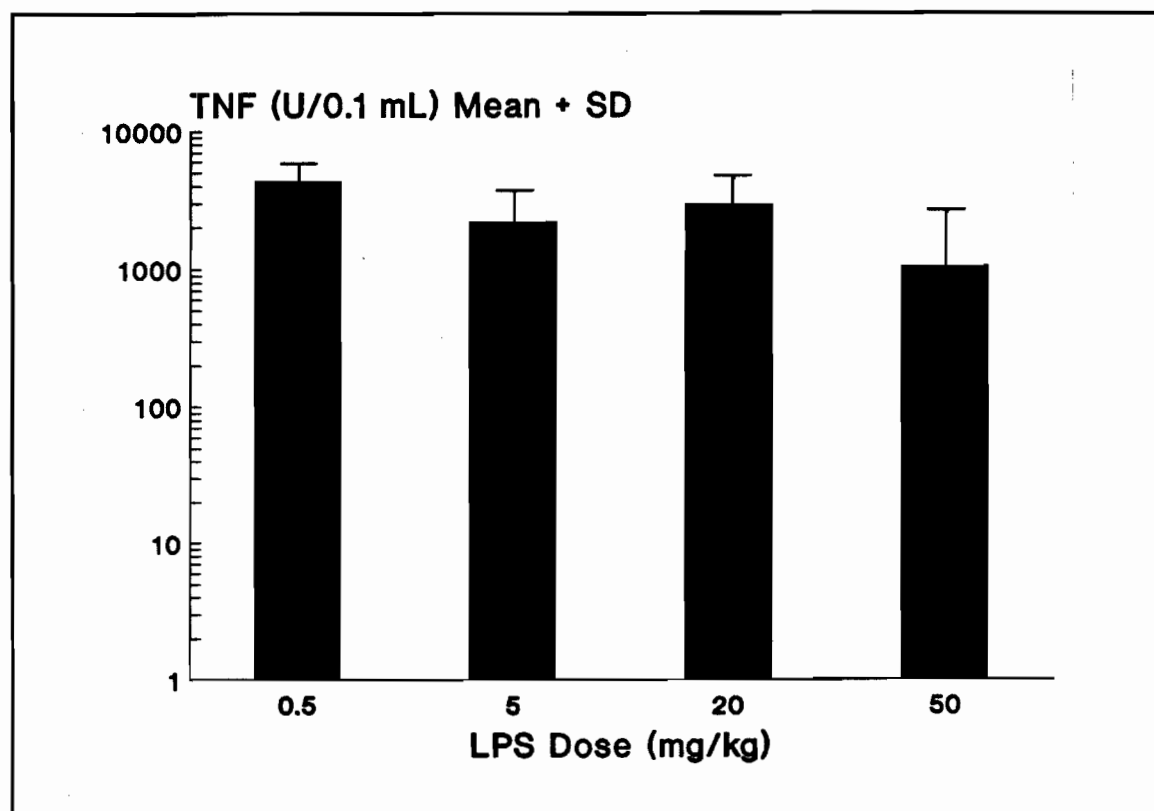


**Figure 10.** Kinetics of Serum TNF Levels Induced with a Single Bolus or by Continuous Infusion of LPS. Rats were given a single ip bolus injection of 0.5 mg/kg of LPS or continuous ip infusion of 0.57 mg/kg/day of LPS starting at time 0:00 (6 rats/group). Blood samples were obtained every 30 minutes to measure serum TNF levels.

The serum TNF profile was similar in both groups (Figure 10). TNF was not detectable in the 0 and 30 minutes samples. By 60 minutes in the bolus group TNF was detected with a peak at 90 minutes. In the infusion groups a peak was reached at 2 hours. After the peak, the TNF levels rapidly fell to undetectable levels by 3.5 hours in both groups.



Once we confirmed the peak for serum TNF levels at 90 minutes post-LPS injection, a Dose/Response curve for peak serum TNF levels was generated using different doses of LPS (*E. coli* O127:B8). Male Wistar rats were injected (6-8 rats/dose) with 0.5, 5, 20 or 50 mg/kg, and blood samples were obtained at 90 minutes post LPS injection. This range is the "high" dose range because it was intended to detect the effect using doses in the lethal range.

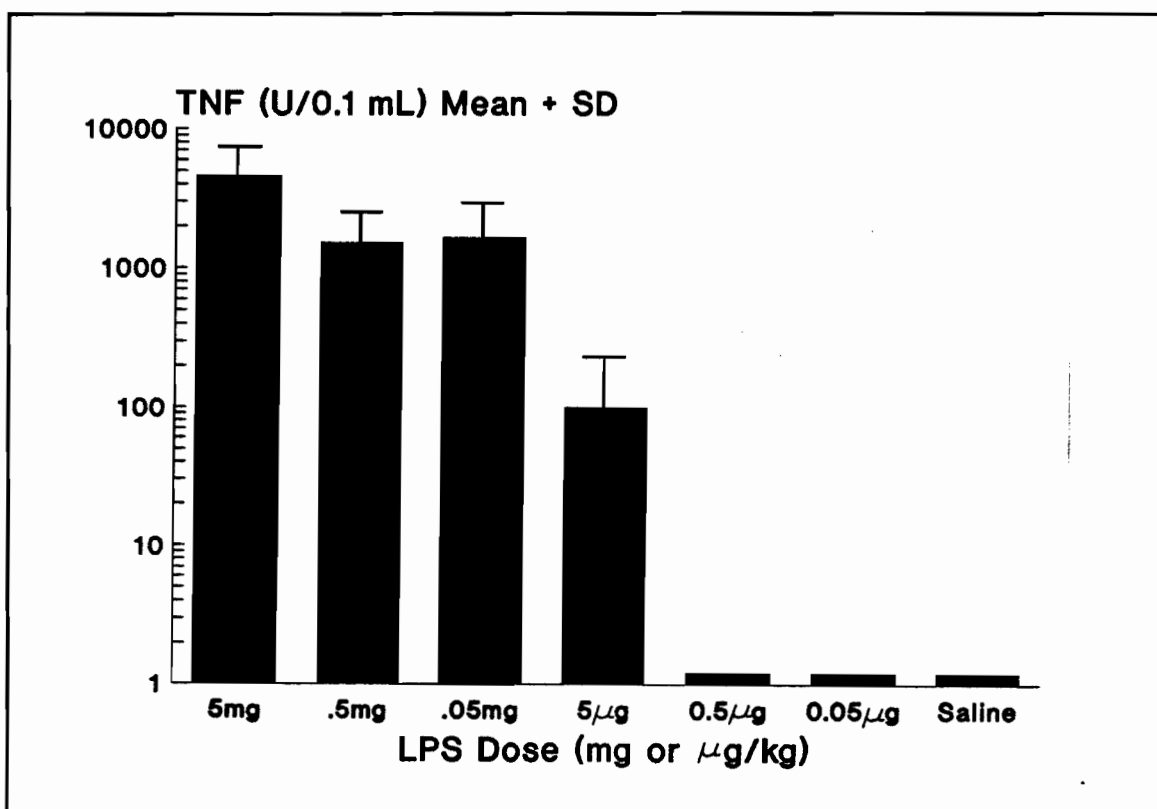


**Figure 11.** Peak Serum TNF Levels After High Doses of LPS. Serum TNF levels were measured in naive rats 90 minutes after an ip injection of 0.5, 5, 20 or 50 mg/kg LPS (8 rats/dose).

As seen in Figure 11, no direct correlation was found between LPS dose and peak levels of TNF in the "high" dose range (ANOVA  $p < 0.0005$ ). Even more surprising was the observation that the highest peak serum TNF levels were elicited with the non-lethal doses and somewhat lower levels of TNF with the highest dose of 50 mg/kg (LD<sub>100</sub>). We were expecting high TNF levels with lethal doses and lower or not detectable TNF serum levels after a non-lethal challenge. An inverse correlation ( $r = -0.8020$ ) although not significant was found between peak TNF levels and LPS dose in the range tested.

When we realized that the lowest dose used in the previous experiment was inducing the highest peak levels of TNF it was obvious that a dose/response curve for the elicitation of TNF including much lower doses of LPS should be performed. Ten-fold dilution doses from 5 mg/kg and below ("low doses") were used (Figure 12).

In the "low" dose experiment, the highest peak TNF levels were found in the highest dose group (5 mg/kg) and progressively diminished until they became undetectable at about the 0.5  $\mu$ g/kg dose group or less. The correlation was positive with an  $r = .7027$  ( $p = 0.053$ ) (in log scale  $r = .9461$ ) in the sensitive range (5 mg/kg to 5  $\mu$ g/kg).



**Figure 12. Peak Serum TNF Levels After Low Doses of LPS.** Serum TNF levels were measured in naive rats 90 minutes after an ip injection of 5 mg, 0.5 mg, 0.05 mg, 5  $\mu$ g, 0.5  $\mu$ g, 0.05  $\mu$ g/kg LPS or saline solution (6 rats/dose).

The data from figures 11 and 12 has not been presented in a single graph because it was generated in two different experiments and also the TNF levels were measured in two different assays, but is clear that there is a wide plateau of high TNF production after doses from about 0.05 mg/kg to 20 mg/kg of LPS.

It became evident that very similar effects on weight loss were induced by a single dose, four repeated injections or continuous ip infusion of LPS (Figure 9) suggesting that animals responded only to the first exposure to LPS and that once triggered, little or no further effects were provoked by repeated or continued challenges. It was also appreciated that the other signs of toxicity observed in the 48 hours following the first challenge were not provoked by continued administration or subsequent doses of LPS reflecting that a broad insensitivity to LPS effects was established.

### **MODIFICATIONS OF THE RESPONSE TO LPS DURING THE EARLY PHASE OF ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE**

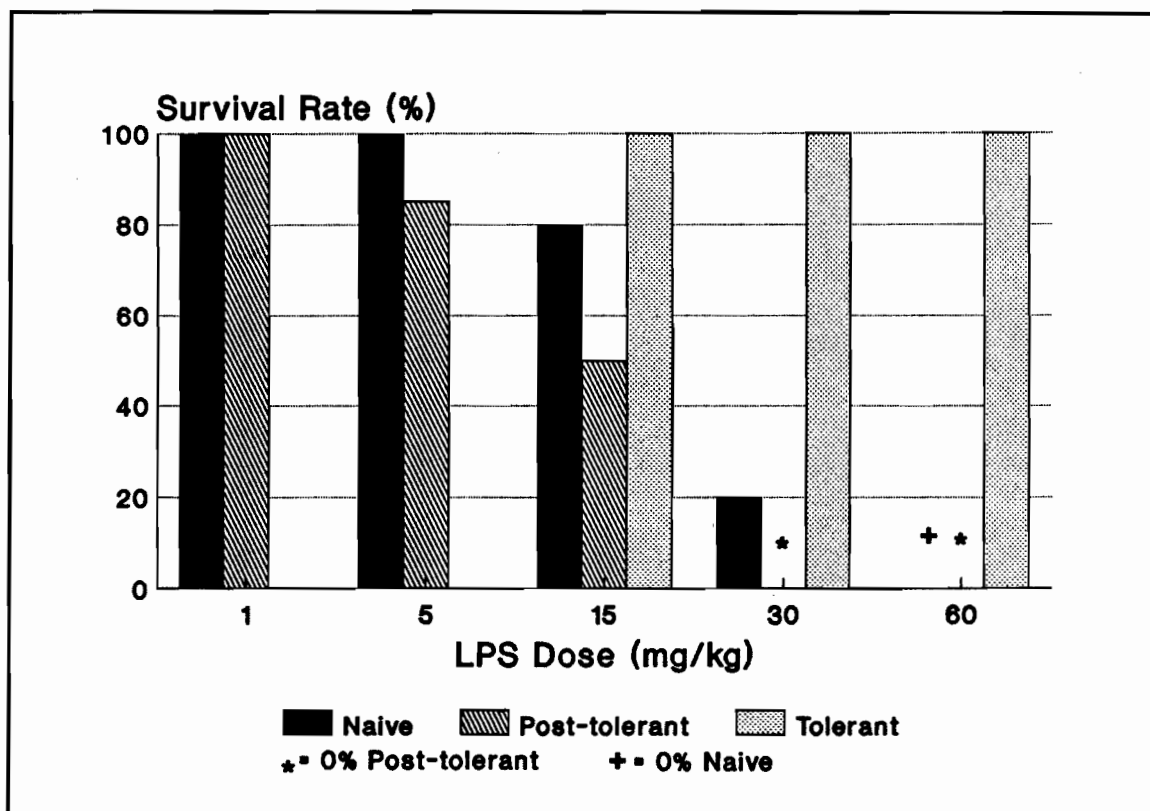
Animals given LPS became refractory to a second challenge of LPS. Experiments were performed to define in a systematic form how an animal would respond in terms of mortality, body weight loss and serum TNF levels after an LPS challenge while tolerant. These experiments consisted essentially of the administration of one or more non-lethal doses of LPS given to induce tolerance (priming) followed at different times thereafter by one or several other injection of LPS given to test sensitivity during the phase of tolerance (challenge).

According to Beeson four daily doses of LPS seemed sufficient to induce tolerance to LPS, and a waiting period of 3 days was long enough to enable separating the effect of pre-treatment from the effect of the challenge dose avoiding an additive effect but still testing the secondary response while the effect of tolerance was strong (Beeson 1947).

#### **I. LETHALITY.**

The ability of tolerant animals to withstand a lethal dose of LPS was first studied. Male F1 Lou/Lewis rats were used; 5 or 6 animals per challenge group. Tolerance was induced by priming with 5 mg/kg LPS on Days -7, -6, -5 and -4. Two groups of control animals were used; animals (naive) injected with saline at the same time, or post-tolerant animals injected with 5 mg/kg LPS but on Days -37, -36, -35 and -34. Animals were then challenged on Day 0 with 1, 5, 15, 30 or 60 mg/kg LPS, the tolerant group with the same doses except 1 mg/kg. Mortality, shown in Figure 13 was registered 72 hours after the challenge.

It was striking to note that rats in the tolerant group survived a dose that proved to be 100% lethal in the other two groups. Sensitivity in the post-tolerant group was similar if not higher than in naive rats indicating that sensitivity to LPS was recovered by 30 days of rest after induction of tolerance. LD<sub>50</sub> and LD<sub>100</sub> were estimated by regression analysis and presented on Table 5.



**Figure 13.** LPS induced mortality in Naive, Tolerant and Post-Tolerant Rats. Different challenge doses of LPS were administered to 3 groups of rats. Naive rats were challenged with 1, 5, 15, 30 or 60 mg/kg LPS on Day 0. Tolerant rats (primed with 5 mg/kg LPS on Days -7, -6, -5, and -4) were challenged with 15, 30 or 60 mg/kg LPS on Day 0. Post-tolerant rats were primed with 5 mg/kg of LPS on days -37, -36, -35 and -34 and challenged with 1, 5, 15, 30 or 60 mg/kg of LPS on Day 0. Mortality was registered 72 hours after the challenge.

## II. BODY WEIGHT.

Body weight was monitored for 7 days after challenge in the 5 mg/kg dose sub-groups in this same preceding experiment. An extra group of controls (6 rats) that was not primed was challenged with saline solution (Day 0) and is included to show the basal body-weight curve.

Table 5. Sensitivity to Endotoxin Lethality

GROUP	LD <sub>50</sub>	LD <sub>100</sub>
Naive	21 mg/kg	37.6 mg/kg
Post-tolerant	15 mg/kg	29.8 mg/kg
Tolerant	> 60 mg/kg	> 60 mg/kg

The weight curves of naive and post-tolerant rats were very alike and so were the curves for the control and tolerant groups (Figure 14). There was no effect of LPS in tolerant animals and continued to gain weight like the controls receiving saline. The recovered responsiveness to LPS after 30 days of rest in the post-tolerant group is evident as the challenge resulted in an effect on body weight loss equal to the consequences experienced by the naive group.

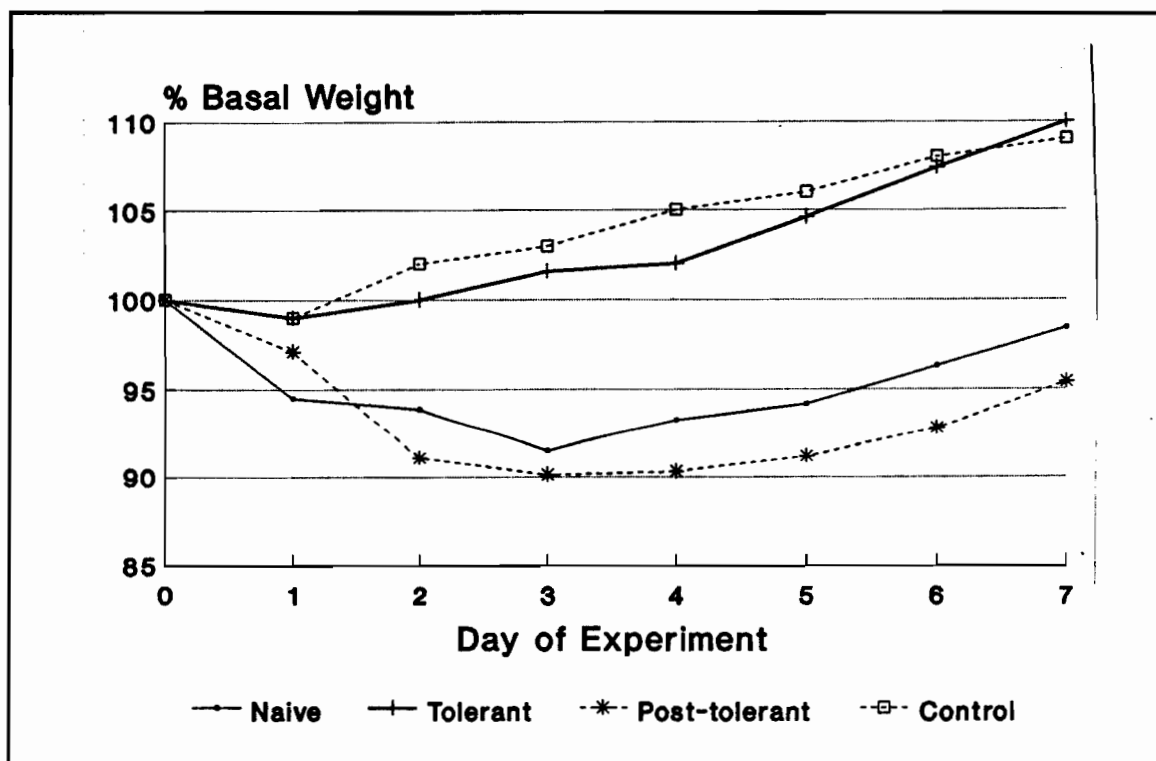
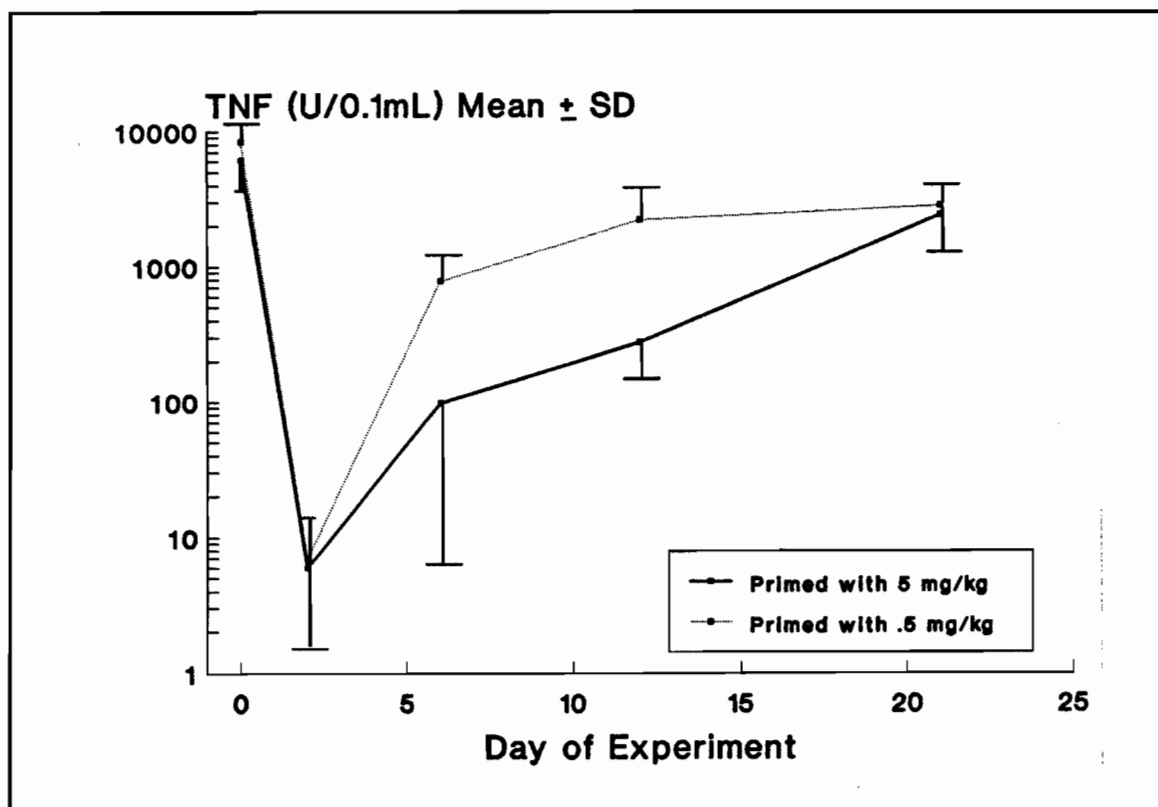


Figure 14. Effect of LPS in Body Weight of Naive, Tolerant And Post-Tolerant Rats. Body weight was daily measured after the ip injection of 5 mg/kg LPS on Day 0. Naive, tolerant and post-tolerant rats received the same pre-treatment as in the previous Figure. Control rats were injected with 10 mL/kg saline solution on Day 0.

### III. PRODUCTION OF TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR.

We wanted to know if the diminished sensitivity to lethality and weight loss was accompanied by a diminished production of TNF during early endotoxin tolerance. We also wanted to know if the transitory span of insensibility noted for the other effects (lethality and weight loss) was also present in the case of TNF production and if full recovery of sensitivity with return to basal conditions would occur if enough time was allowed to pass after induction of LPS tolerance.



**Figure 15. Kinetics of Peak Serum TNF Levels. Tolerance-Recovery Cycle.** Two groups of rats were injected ip on Day 0 with 0.5 or 5 mg/kg LPS (Priming Dose). Animals were split into 4 sub-groups and challenged with 5 mg/kg LPS on Days 2, 6, 12 or 21 after the first dose. Blood samples were obtained 90 minutes after each LPS injection to measure peak serum TNF levels and IgG and IgM anti-LPS antibodies.

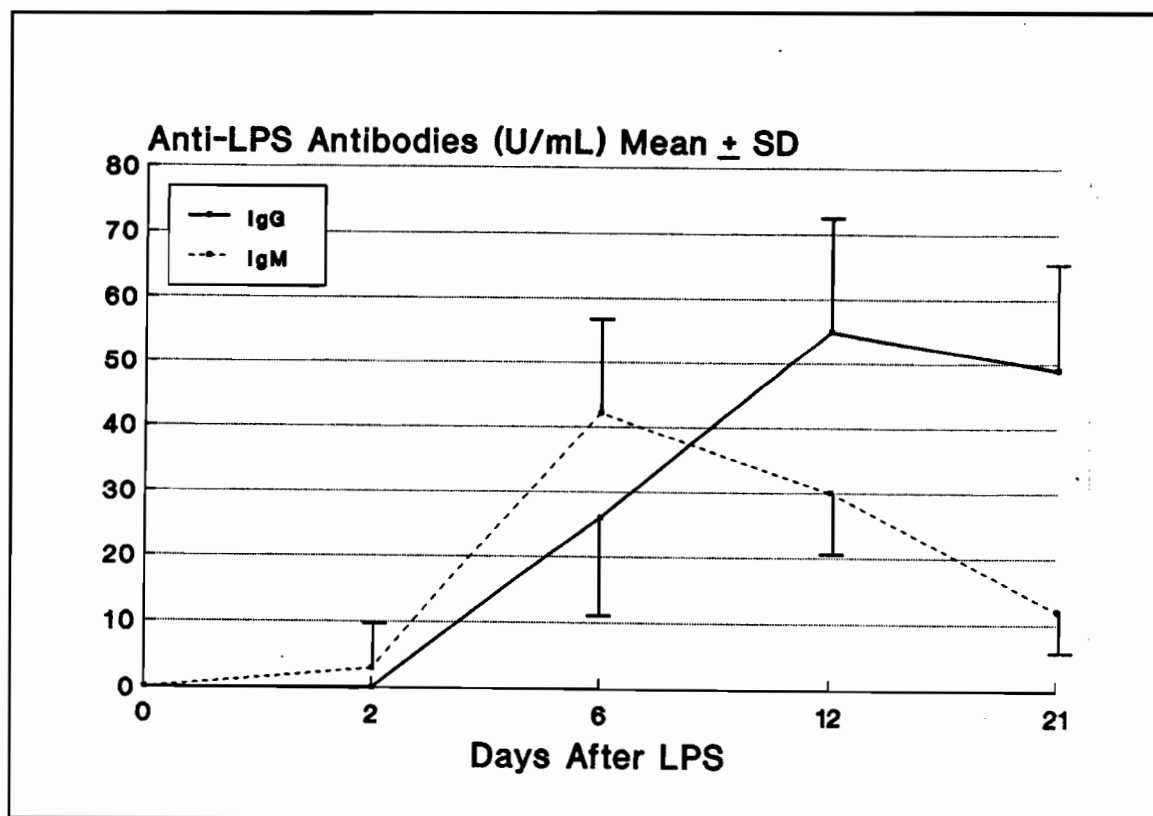
We followed the course of peak serum TNF levels after LPS injections and anti-LPS antibodies subsequent to inducing early LPS tolerance. Male F1 (Lou/Lewis) rats were injected ip on Day 0 with a single dose of 5 or 0.5 mg/kg LPS (*E. coli* O127:B8) (pre-treatment or induction dose). Each pre-treatment group was then divided into 4 sub-groups (5 rats/sub-group) and challenged with 5 mg/kg LPS at different point times (Day 2, 6, 12 or 21 respectively). Blood samples were obtained 90 minutes

post-injection for determination of TNF levels and anti-LPS antibodies. Peak serum TNF levels are represented in Figure 15.

As shown, the high peak levels of TNF observed after the first dose (Day 0) with either induction or pre-treatment dose are almost completely aborted on Day 2 when challenge elicited only trace amounts of TNF. By Day 6 partial recovery of responsiveness is evident and although it keeps improving, on day 21 peak TNF levels are not completely restored to peak levels induced in the naive animal.

A sooner increased in peak TNF levels by day 6 in the group induced with the low dose are revealed by the earlier recovery of peak TNF levels by day 6 in the group primed with the low dose of LPS (ANOVA  $p < 0.05$ ).

IgG and IgM anti-LPS antibodies, undetectable on Day 0 were still at trace levels by day 2 when tolerance seems to be maximal; and levels became apparent on Day 6 just as TNF production began to recover. The high IgG levels present on day 21 do not seem to be related to the tolerance/recovery cycle (Figure 16).

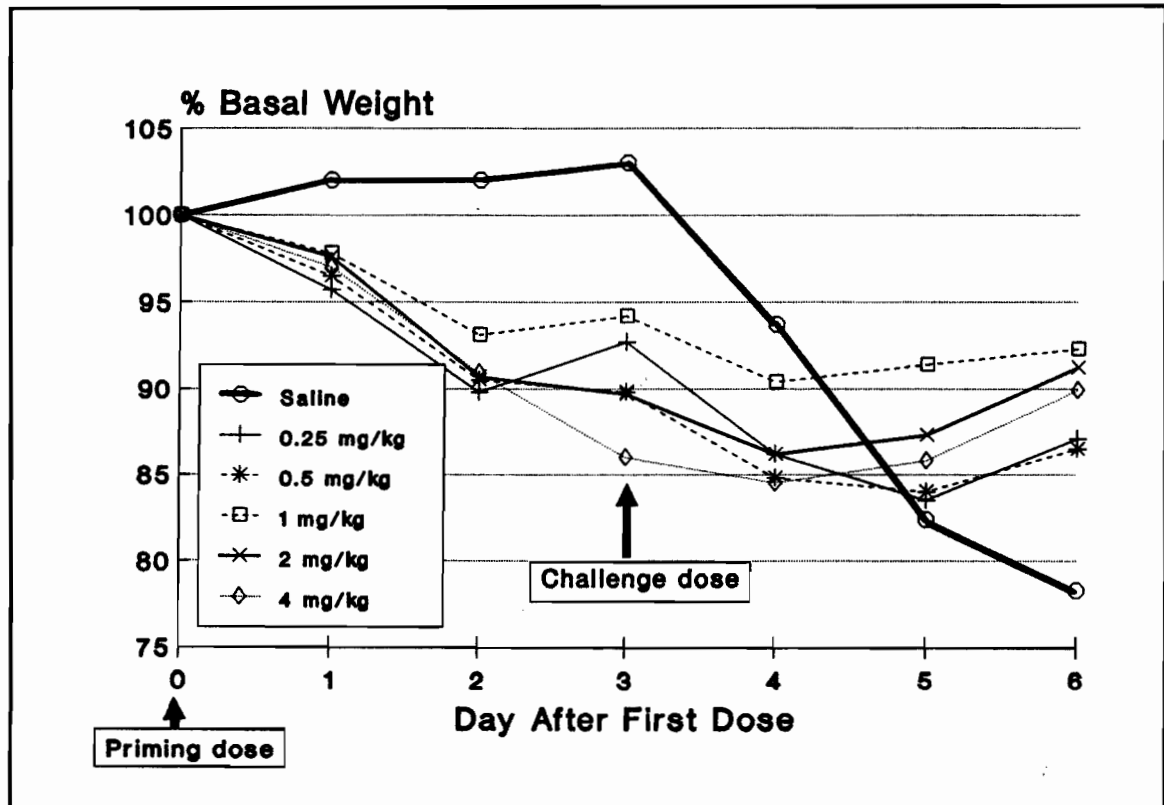


**Figure 16.** IgG and IgM Anti-LPS Antibodies. Tolerance-Recovery Cycle. See footnote of Figure 15.

#### IV. GENERATION OF ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE

Having shown that tolerant animals were refractory to the effects of LPS in terms of lethality, weight loss and TNF production, a series of experiments were initiated to investigate the parameters for induction of tolerance.

The minimal dose of LPS able to induce tolerance was determined. Female F1 Low/Lewis rats were allocated to 6 groups and given 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2 or 4 mg/kg of LPS (priming treatment). Controls received saline solution. On day 3 all groups (3 rats per group) were challenged with 20 mg/kg LPS ( $LD_{50}$ ). Body weight was measured daily.



**Figure 17. Weight Loss After LPS. Induction of Tolerance with Low Doses of LPS.** Different priming doses of LPS (0.25, 0.5, 1, 2 or 4 mg/kg) were injected ip on Day 0 to various groups of naive rats (3 rats per group). Controls were primed with saline solution. On Day 3 after priming dose all groups were challenged with 20 mg/kg LPS. Only one animal survived challenge dose in the control group. All 3 animals in each of the other groups survived. Body weight was measured daily.

All 3 animals in each of the LPS primed groups survived the challenge with LPS but only one in the control group survived the challenge. Body weight loss on day 1 and 2 after the priming dose was similar for the 5 groups that received LPS, as opposed



to the control group in which a steady increase in body weight was seen as expected (Days 1, 2 and 3, Figure 17,  $p < 0.001$  for all pre-treated groups compared to controls).

The effect in weight loss after challenge was similar for all groups that received LPS as shown in Figure 17 (Days 4, 5 and 6, differences not significant by ANOVA). The single survivor in the control group had a very important weight loss after challenge which continued on day 6 of the experiment whilst the other groups were regaining weight since Day 4 or 5 of the experiment (second and third day after challenge). These results show that a dose as low as 0.25 mg/kg can confer tolerance even if the challenge dose is within the lethal range. Differences on weight loss on Day 5 compared to body weight on day 3 are significant for all tolerant groups compared to controls ( $p < 0.05$ ).

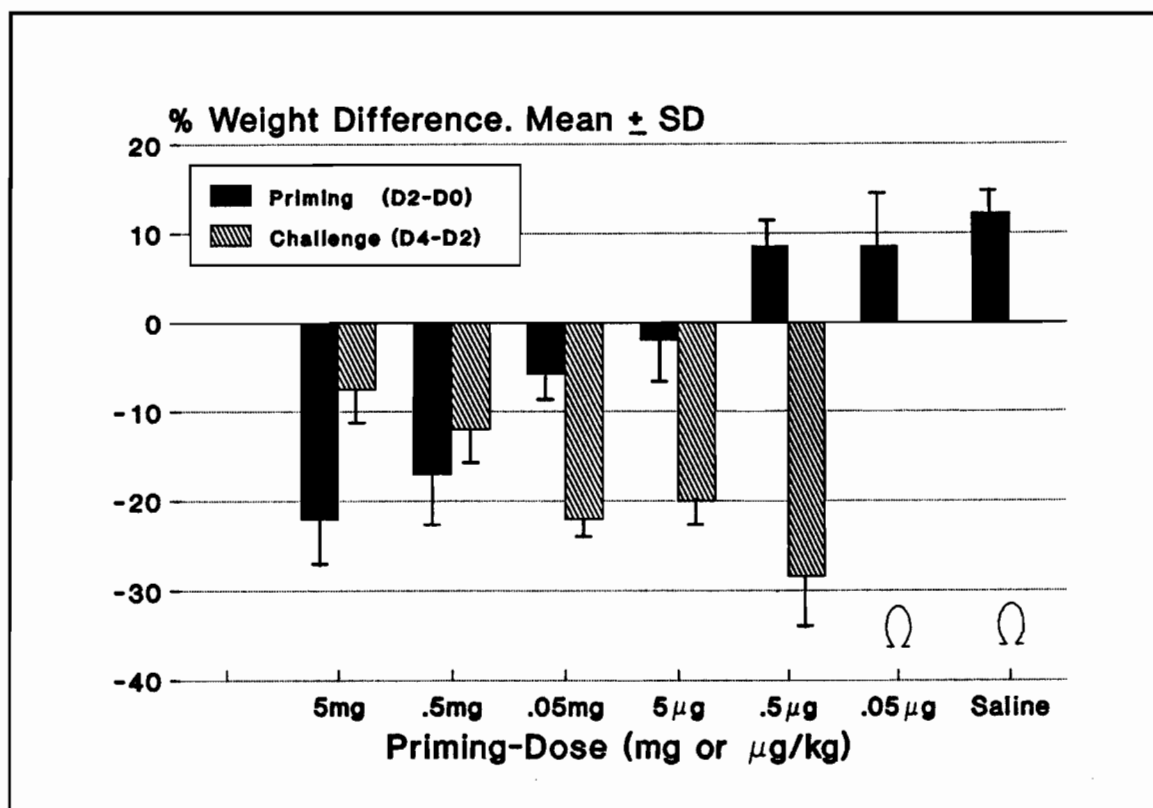
It was necessary to cover a broader range of low doses in order to reach sub-threshold levels both for the pre-treatment effect on body weight and for the protection conferred from a second challenge. We also wanted to measure serum TNF levels as another way to detect the effect of tolerance so a variant of this experiment was performed as follows.

On Day 0 different doses (5 mg; 0.5 mg; 0.05 mg; 5  $\mu$ g; 0.5  $\mu$ g of 0.05  $\mu$ g per kg) of *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS were injected into male Wistar rats to evaluate induction of early LPS tolerance. A control group received saline (10 mL/kg). Two days later all groups were challenged with an LD<sub>100</sub> of LPS (50 mg/kg). Body weight was measured daily. Blood samples were obtained 90 minutes after each dose of LPS for peak serum TNF measurement.

Percentage body weight differences between Day 2 and Day 0 are shown in black bars on Figure 18. The higher the priming dose given on Day 0 the more pronounced the weight loss induced on the first two days of the experiment and *vice versa* (ANOVA  $p < 0.0001$ ). The two smallest priming doses (0.5 and 0.05  $\mu$ g/kg) and the saline injection did not induce any weight loss.

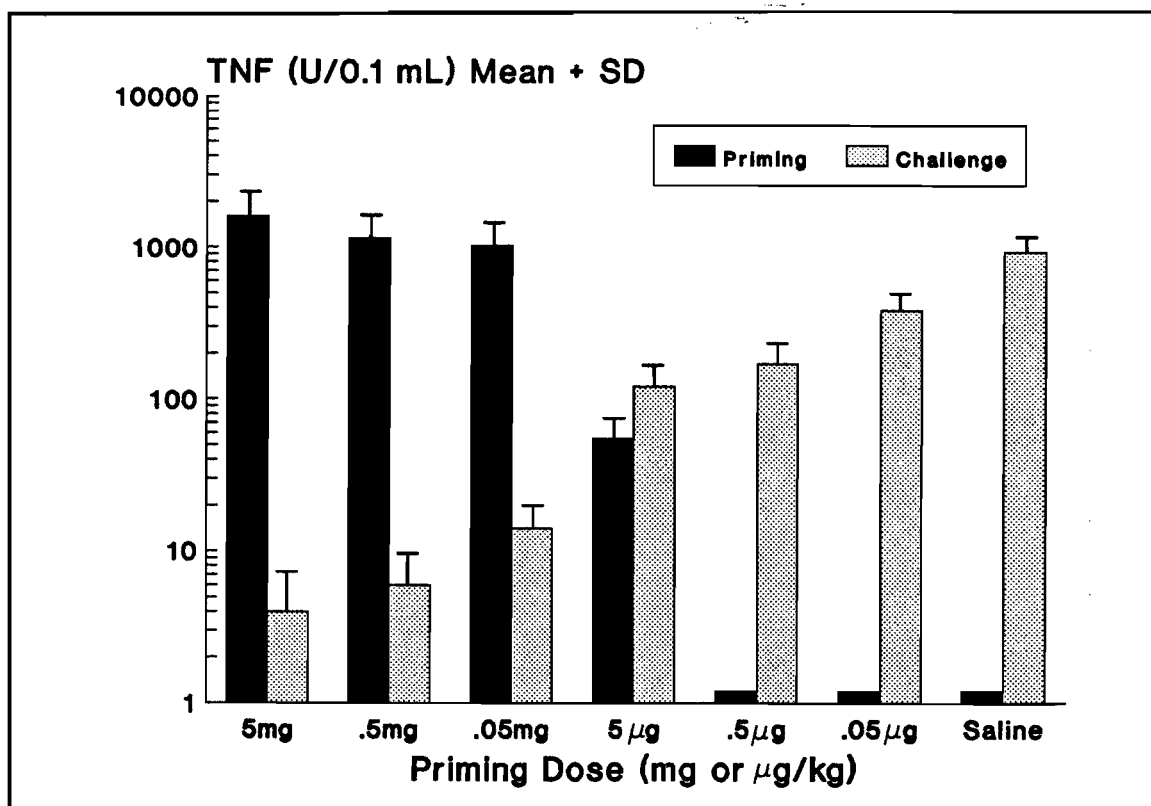
The effect on body weight induced upon challenge (50 mg/kg LPS to all rats) (Day 4 minus Day 2 body weight) is represented in dashed bars in Figure 18. As shown, the higher the priming dose, the smaller the weight loss induced by challenge, or in

other words, the higher the priming dose the deeper the degree of tolerance induced (ANOVA  $p < 0.005$ ). Lethality after challenge was 100% in the 0.05  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  LPS and saline groups (see Table 6) which reflects non tolerance. It is relevant that a dose as small as 0.5  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  which did not provoke weight loss (nor detectable levels of TNF) was enough to induce tolerance to an  $\text{LD}_{100}$  dose of LPS.



**Figure 18. Weight Loss after LPS (Priming and Challenge). Induction of Tolerance with Low Doses of LPS.** Doses of 5, 0.5, 0.05 mg/kg and 5, 0.5, 0.05  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  of LPS were injected on Day 0 into naive rats (6 rats/group). Controls received saline. On Day 2 all groups were challenged with 50 mg/kg of LPS ( $\text{LD}_{100}$ ). All animals died after challenge in the controls and the lowest dose-primed group ( $\Omega$ ). Mean body weight differences between Day 2 and Day 0 (black bars = effect of priming dose) and between Day 4 and Day 2 (hatched bars = effect of challenge) are shown.

Peak serum TNF levels both after priming (black bars) and after challenge doses of LPS (dotted bars) are represented in Figure 19. Priming dose of 5 mg/kg of LPS induced the highest TNF levels (ANOVA  $p < 0.005$  considering only the doses that induced detectable levels of TNF). Peak TNF levels were progressively smaller as LPS doses diminished and no TNF was detected after an LPS dose of 0.5  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  or less.



**Figure 19.** Induction of Tolerance with Low Doses of LPS. Peak serum TNF levels following priming dose (black columns) and following challenge injections (dotted bars) are represented. The priming doses given on Day 0 are shown on the ordinate. All rats were challenged with 50 mg/kg LPS on Day 2. See footnote of Figure 18

After challenge (50 mg/kg LPS), very low peak levels of TNF ( $<10$  U/0.1 mL) were induced in the 5 mg/kg primed group and progressively higher levels of TNF induced by the challenge were measured as the priming dose was smaller.

As mentioned before, no TNF was detected at 90 minutes after the priming dose in the group that received 0.05 µg/kg. Also, this dose did not induce tolerance to the lethal effect. Nevertheless, TNF levels after challenge were not as high as those induced in naive animals ( $380 \pm 90$  U/0.1 mL in the 0.05 µg/kg group v.s.  $925 \pm 170$  U/0.1 mL in the group that received saline solution  $p < 0.0001$ ) and yet this difference did not prevent death.

Peak TNF levels were higher after 5 mg/kg priming dose ( $1600 \pm 280$  U/0.1 mL) than in the saline group after a 50 mg/kg challenge dose ( $925 \pm 170$  U/0.1 mL) ( $p < 0.005$ ) once again showing an inverse correlation between LPS dose and TNF levels within this range.

Table 6 shows percentage weight loss induced by the challenge in this same experiment. Day 2 body weight is considered the base-line weight and the difference between body weight on Day 4 minus Day 2 as a result of LPS challenge. Survival rates after challenge are also shown.

**Table 6. Weight Loss and Survival After LPS (Challenge). Low Dose Tolerance**

<b>PRIMING</b>	<b>% WEIGHT LOSS AFTER CHALLENGE (D4-D2)</b>	<b>SURVIVAL/TOT.</b>
5 mg/kg	7.5 ± 3.4	6/6
0.5 mg/kg	12 ± 2.3	6/6
0.05 mg/kg	22 ± 2	6/6
5 µg/kg	20.5 ± 2.8	6/6
0.5 µg/kg	28.4 ± 6.5	5/6
0.05 µg/kg LPS	death	0/6
Saline	death	0/6

The next question addressed was if continuous administration of LPS would prolong the duration of endotoxin tolerance beyond the duration of tolerance induced by a single bolus injection. Male Wistar rats were used in the following experiment. On Day 0 one group (Single Bolus) received a single ip dose of 5 mg/kg LPS (*E. coli* O127:B8). Osmotic minipumps loaded with 0.2 mL of 50 mg/mL LPS to be delivered over 7 days were implanted in the abdominal cavity of a second group of rats (Continuous infusion). The infusion rate was calculated at 7 mg/kg/day. Each group was then subdivided into 4 sub-groups (6 rats each) and challenged with 5 mg/kg LPS on Day 2, 4, 6 or 10 after the priming treatment. Blood samples were obtained 90 minutes after each ip dose (120 min after the implantation of the primed pumps) for TNF levels and body weight was also recorded.

TNF levels are represented on Figure 20. As in a previous experiment (Figure 10), this time higher levels of TNF were also induced after the bolus injection (black columns) than after implantation of the pumps (dashed bars) (Day 0  $p < 0.0001$ ). Upon challenge on Day 2 both groups produced very low peak levels of TNF although somewhat lower levels were evident in the continuous infusion group ( $p < 0.05$ ). Recovery of TNF production became evident as early as Day 4 in the single

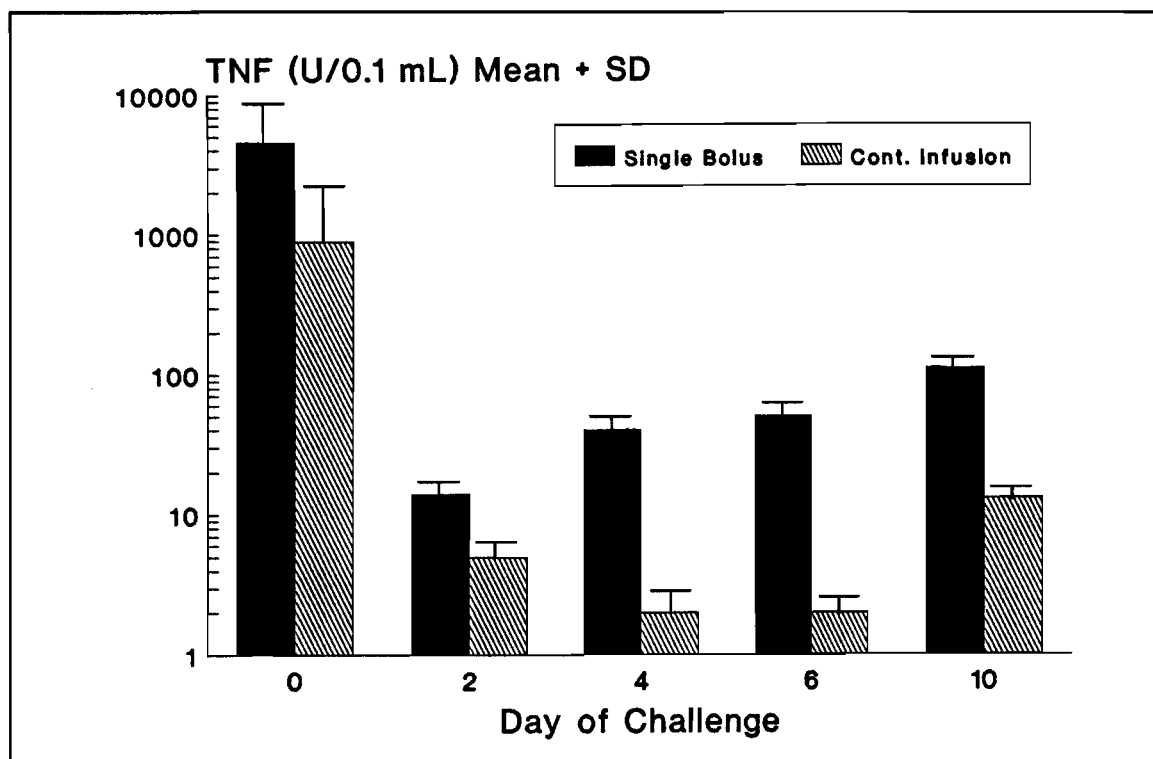
bolus group whereas in the continuous infusion group the state of unresponsiveness was sustained as long as there was infusion of LPS (significance between group differences: Day 4  $p < 0.001$ , Day 6  $p < 0.0001$ ). By Day 10 there was some recovery of TNF production in the infusion group although still low compared with the bolus group ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Blood samples were obtained before each LPS challenge in both groups and undetectable levels of TNF were obtained every time (data not shown).

Figure 21 shows results of maximal weight loss induced by the priming (Day 0) and the challenge treatment (Days 2, 4, 6 or 10) in the same previous experiment. Weights were very consistent (Bolus group =  $216.6 \pm 10.2$  g; Infusion group =  $218.5 \pm 15.6$  g) so the results are expressed as maximal weight loss in grams. Figures correspond to 48 hours weight difference after pre-treatment and 24 hours after challenge which corresponded to the maximal difference. The differences in weight loss between groups were not significant after pre-treatment (Day 0) nor after challenge on Day 2: both groups loss over 25 grams upon priming and between 5 and 10 grams upon challenge on day 2. Thereafter, the single bolus group had a maximal average loss of 3 grams after challenge on Day 4 and 10.3 g on day 6, the continuous infusion group had an average gain of 3 g on day 4 and a gain of 5 g on day 6 demonstrating a lengthened state of tolerance ( $p < 0.005$ ). By day 10 after the pumps were exhausted and no LPS had been infused for 3 days, the animals were again sensitive to LPS challenge showing a weight loss, but less than that seen with the bolus group ( $p < 0.0001$ ).

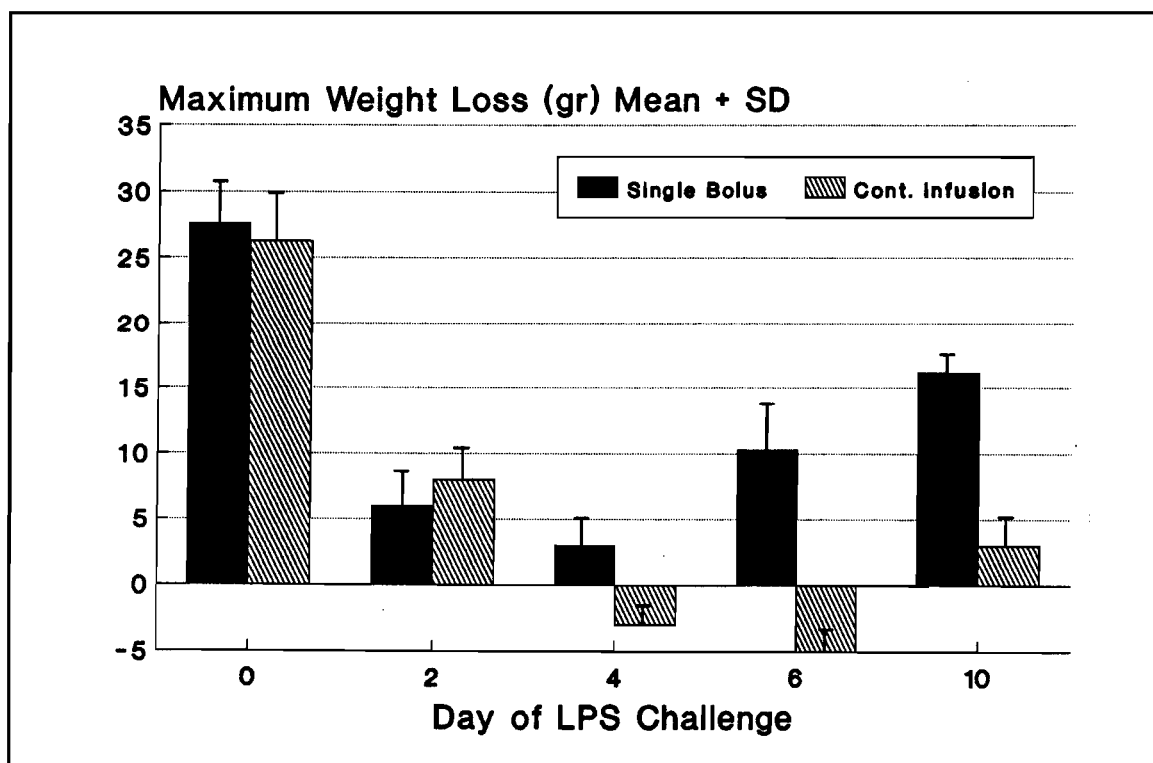
These results may have relevance in the clinical setting where repeated bolus of LPS are believed to occur in gram-negative infections.

#### **EFFECTS OF UNRELATED TYPES OF LPS DURING EARLY ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE**

The next objective was to determine if tolerance induced with one type O-specific LPS would prevent the effects (including mortality and TNF production) triggered by a different type O-specific LPS. The following experiments were carried on to answer this question.



**Figure 20. Peak Serum TNF Levels After LPS.** Rats were primed (Day 0) with a single bolus injection (black bars) or by continuous infusion of LPS over 7 days (hatched bars). Animals were split into 4 sub-groups and challenged with 5 mg/kg LPS on Days 2, 4, 6 or 10. Peak serum TNF levels after priming dose and after each challenge dose are shown.



**Figure 21. Maximal body weight loss after priming dose (Day 0) or after challenge doses (all others) of LPS are shown (See previous footnote).**

## I. CONTROL EXPERIMENTS. LETHALITY AND TNF PRODUCTION

A dose/response curve both for lethality and TNF production was first established for each type of LPS. Male Wistar rats (150-220 g body weight) were injected with LPS from different species of the gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* O127:B8, *E. coli* O111:B4, *E. coli* O26:B6, *P. aeruginosa*, and *S. typhosa* and were bled 90 minutes after LPS to measure peak serum TNF, and were monitored for mortality. Rats were initially injected with 6.6 or 20 mg/kg of each type of LPS. Other dose groups were included depending upon the mortality observed for each class of LPS.

The final doses injected (4 rats per group) were:

*E. coli* O127:B8, 6.6, 13, and 20 mg/kg.

*E. coli* O26:B6, 6.6, 20, 50, and 100 mg/kg.

*E. coli* O111:B4, 6.6, 20, and 50 mg/kg.

*P. aeruginosa*, 6.6, 20, and 50 mg/kg.

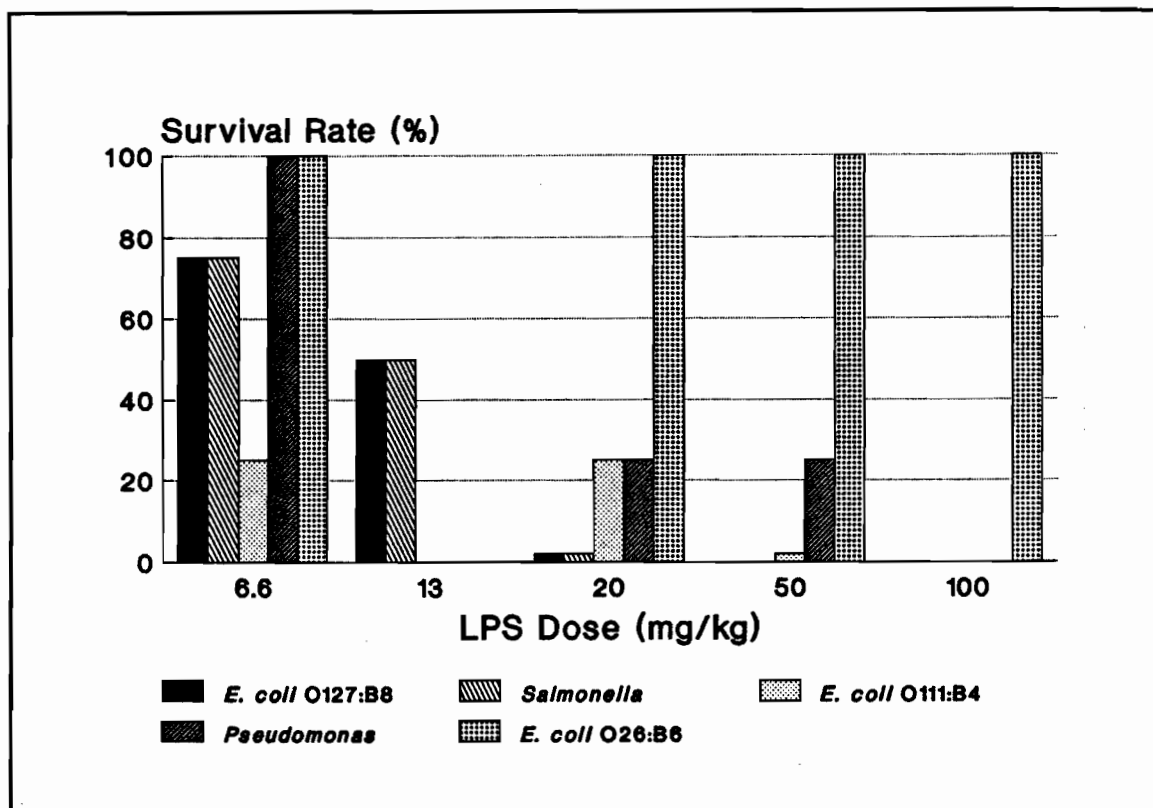
*S. typhosa*, 6.6, 13, and 20 mg/kg.

Survival rates are depicted on Figure 23. From the survival rates a LD<sub>50</sub> and LD<sub>100</sub> were calculated for each type of LPS by regression analysis (Table 7).

Table 7. Relative Lethal Potency of LPS from Different Bacteria

TYPE OF LPS	LD <sub>50</sub>	LD <sub>100</sub>
<i>E. coli</i> O127:B8	11.1	21
<i>S. typhosa</i>	11.1	21
<i>E. coli</i> O111:B4	14.2	33.8
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	24.3	45.5
<i>E. coli</i> O26:B6	> 100	> 100

Potency was highest and identical for *E. coli* O127:B8 and *S. typhosa* LPS. Lethal potency was somewhat less for *E. coli* O111:B4 and *P. aeruginosa*. While the LPS from *E. coli* O26:B6 was not lethal even at the highest dose employed (100 mg/kg).



**Figure 22. Survival Rates After LPS from Different Bacteria. Dose/Response Experiment.** Rats were injected with 6.6 or 20 mg/kg LPS from the different species of gram-negative bacteria shown. Other doses (13, 50 or 100 mg/kg) were included depending upon the mortality observed in order to estimate the LD<sub>50</sub> and LD<sub>100</sub> for each type of LPS.

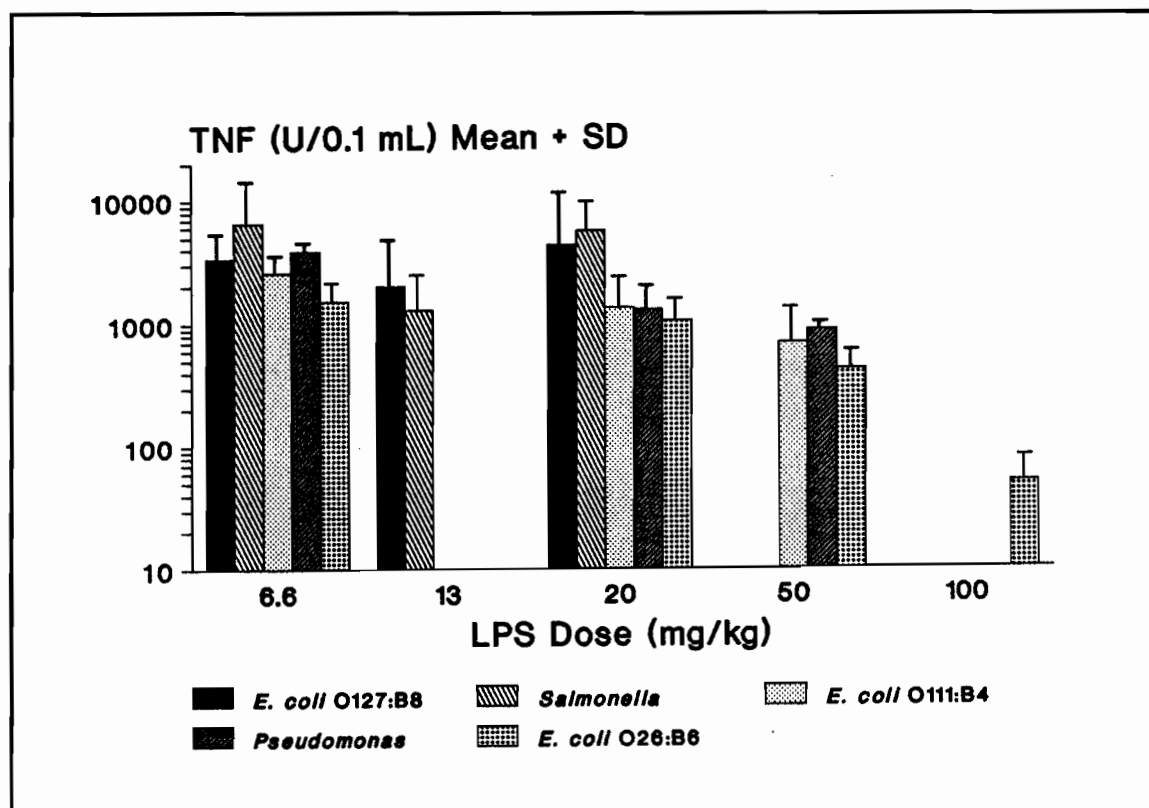
The peak TNF levels (Figure 23) induced by a particular dose of all types of LPS were correlated and were not significantly different in every case (ANOVA). A general tendency to induce diminished peak levels of TNF with doses larger than 20 mg/kg was clear, confirming the impression suggested in Figure 11 although the difference in peak TNF levels induced by the same type of LPS using different doses were statistically significant only for *E. coli* O26:B6 LPS (ANOVA  $p = 0.0016$ ). Once more, no correlation between LPS dose, mortality and peak TNF serum levels was found. Even though the toxic effect of *E. coli* O26:B6 LPS was so different from the others, serum TNF peak levels at equivalent doses were similar to those induced with the more toxic compounds (Not significant at 6.6, 20 or 50 mg/kg ANOVA).

## II. SPECIFICITY OF TOLERANCE

The specificity of tolerance induction was then investigated; tolerance was induced with one type of LPS and then challenged with an unrelated class of LPS. A highly



toxic (*E. coli* O127:B8) or the low-toxicity type of LPS (*E. coli* O26:B6) were used to induce tolerance.



**Figure 23. Peak TNF Serum Levels After LPS from Different Bacteria.** Blood samples were obtained 90 minutes after injection of the doses of LPS indicated. TNF was measured in the samples as shown.

For the toxic LPS, early tolerance was induced on male Wistar rats with two injections of 4 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS on Day 0 and Day 2. On day 4 animals were challenged with a 100% lethal dose of different types of LPS as follows: *E. coli* O127:B8 (30 mg/kg); *E. coli* O111:B4 (50 mg/kg); *S. typhi* (30 mg/kg) or *P. aeruginosa* (70 mg/kg). Blood samples were obtained in every case 90 minutes after the LPS injection. For the low-toxicity type of LPS (*E. coli* O26:B6), three different schedules of tolerance induction were used: two doses of 10 mg/kg on Day 0 and Day 2; two doses of 25 mg/kg on Day 0 and Day 2, or a single dose of 50 mg/kg on Day 2. On Day 4 all rats were challenged with an LD<sub>100</sub> of 30 mg/kg of *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS. Table 8 shows the protocols and survival rates. Figures 24 and 25 show peak TNF serum levels.

The results demonstrate that as expected, early LPS tolerance is not specific for the O-antigen of the preparation used to induce tolerance, both in terms of susceptibility to the lethal effect and also for TNF production. As shown in Table 8, tolerance generated by the toxic LPS O127:B8 resulted in protection for all types of LPS. In spite of its low toxicity, *E. coli* O26:B6 LPS was able to induce tolerance to a lethal challenge with the toxic preparation *E. coli* O127:B8 by all 3 different schedules used.

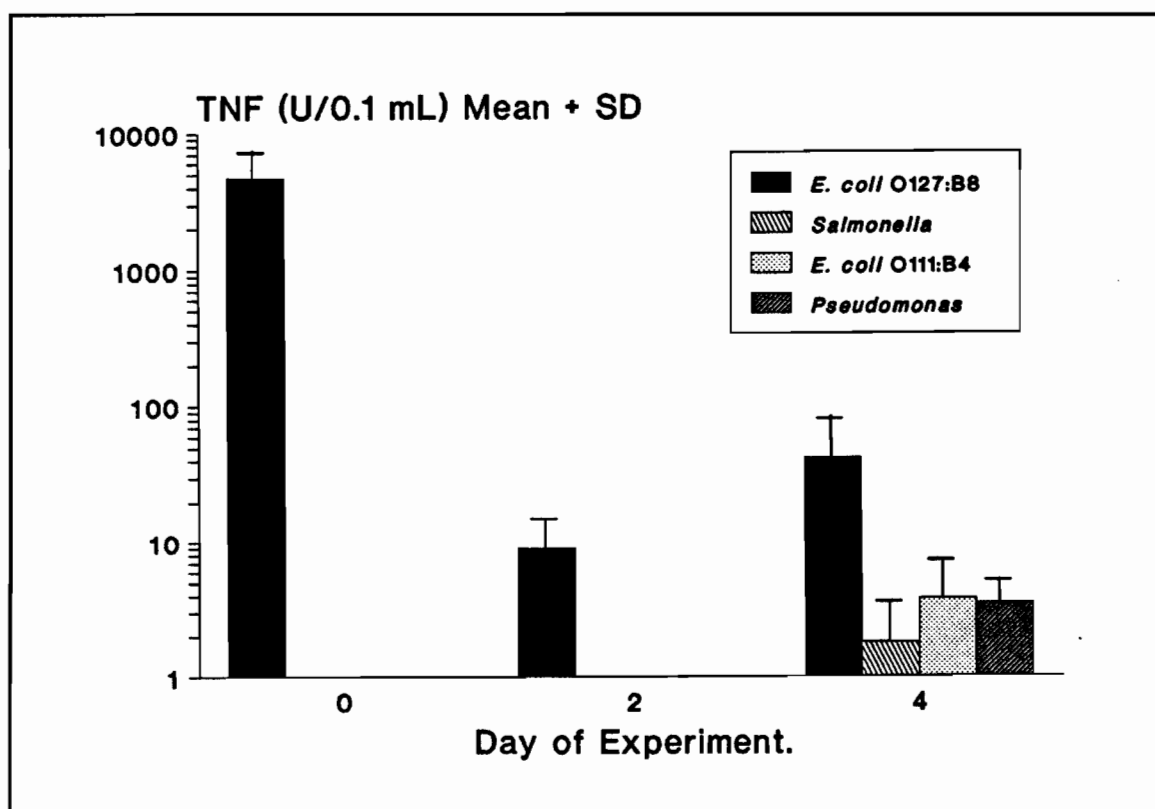
**Table 8. Protocol and Survival Rate. Challenge with Unrelated LPS During Early Tolerance**

<b>PRE-TREATMENT</b>	<b>CHALLENGE (DAY 4)</b>	<b>SURVIVAL/TOTAL</b>
O127:B8 4 mg/kg	O127:B8 30 mg/kg	8/8
2 doses (D0 & D2)	O111:B4 50 mg/kg	7/8
	<i>Salmonella</i> 30 mg/kg	8/8
	<i>Pseudomonas</i> 70 mg/kg	8/8
O26:B6 10 mg/kg	O127:B8 30 mg/kg	7/8
2 doses (D0 & D2)		
O26:B6 25 mg/kg	O127:B8 30 mg/kg	7/8
2 doses (D0 & D2)		
O26:B6 50 mg/kg	O127:B8 30 mg/kg	4/4
1 dose (D2)		

When *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS was used to induce tolerance, peak levels of TNF induced by the challenge with unrelated types of LPS were actually lower ( $p < 0.0001$ ) than the levels induced by the same LPS (Figure 24). Difference between TNF levels induced by *Salmonella*, *Pseudomonas* of *E. coli* O111:B4 were non significant (ANOVA). When tolerance was induced with *E. coli* O26:B6 LPS however peak TNF levels were only slightly diminished upon challenge at day 4 with the toxic heterologous LPS although very high protection from lethality was

conferred as 7 out of 8 rats (87%) survived the LD<sub>100</sub>. It was also observed that when priming with two doses of 10 mg/kg LPS were the challenge induced higher levels of TNF ( $p < 0.0001$ ) implying less efficient tolerance induction than the degree of tolerance induced by two doses of 25 mg/kg LPS. Peak TNF levels after challenge with O127:B8 were significantly higher when priming was done with the low-toxicity type of LPS ( $p < 0.01$  ANOVA) than the levels achieved after the same challenge when tolerance was induced by the more toxic compound (*E. coli* O127:B8 LPS).

Serum TNF was not measured in the last protocol in which tolerance was induced by a single dose of 50 mg/kg of O26:B6 LPS which was also shown to be protective (Table 8).

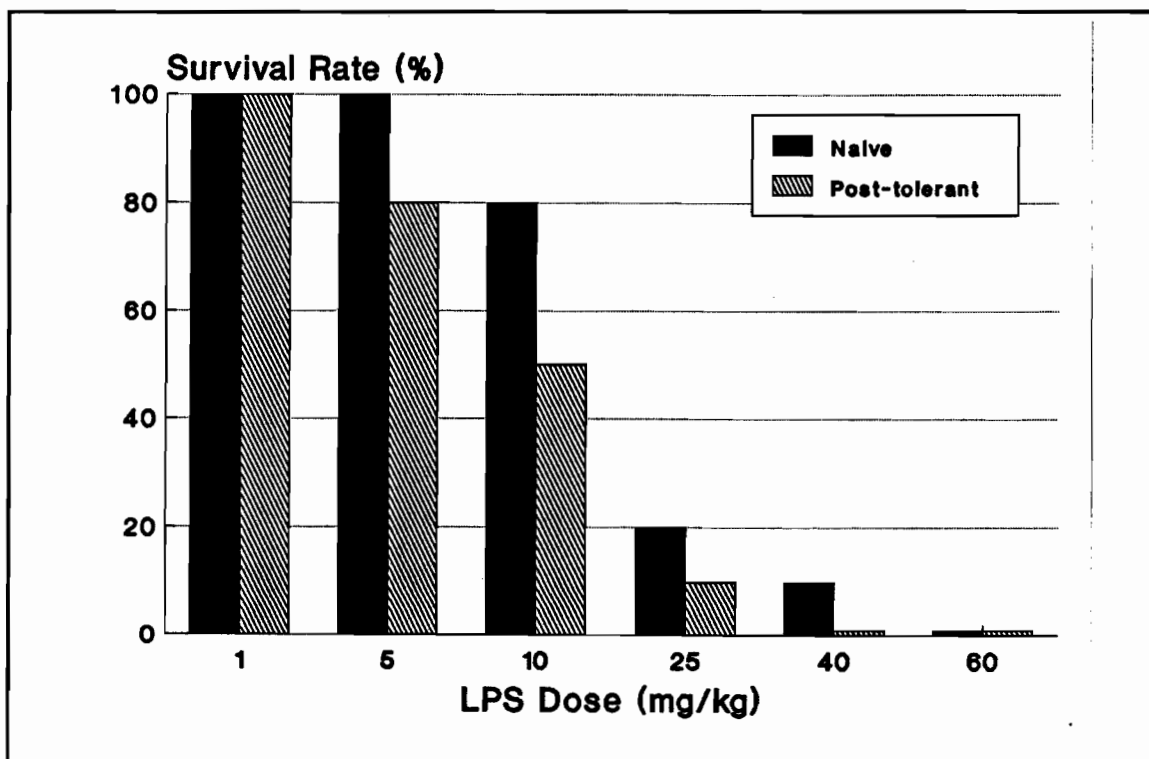


**Figure 24.** Peak TNF Serum Levels After LPS. Effect of Different LPS During Early Tolerance after priming with toxic LPS. LPS tolerance was induced with two doses of 4 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS on Day 0 and Day 2. On Day 4 animals were challenged with an LD<sub>100</sub> dose of different types of LPS, *E. coli* O127:B8 (30 mg/kg), *S. typhi* (30 mg/kg), *E. coli* O111:B4 (50 mg/kg) and *P. aeruginosa* (70 mg/kg). Mean peak serum TNF levels after each dose are shown.

production of the post-tolerant state. The purpose of these experiments was to investigate if after recovery of sensitivity from early endotoxin tolerance, animals were as responsive to various effects of LPS administration as their naive counterparts.

### I. LETHALITY.

The susceptibility of naive and post-tolerant rats to LPS was first investigated. A dose/response curve for mortality with *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS of naive and post-tolerant rats was generated. Groups of 8-10 rats (post-tolerant) were pre-treated with a single dose of LPS (5 mg/kg) and 21 days later these and age matched naive rats received 1, 5, 10, 25, 40 or 60 mg/kg LPS. Survival rates at 72 hours for both groups were compared.



**Figure 26. Lethal Effect of LPS. Naive v.s. Post-Tolerant Rats.** A dose/response curve for *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS lethal effect was generated. Post-tolerant rats were pre-treated with a single dose of 5 mg/kg on day -21. On Day 0 naive and post-tolerant rats were injected with 1, 5, 10, 25, 40 or 60 mg/kg LPS. Survival rate at 72 hours are compared.

As shown in Figure 27 minimal differences in the survival rate between naive and post-tolerant rats were found in each dose group so it was concluded that recovery of sensitivity to this effect of LPS was complete (LD<sub>50</sub>: Naive = 24.2 mg/kg, Post-

tolerant 18.8 mg/kg) and that "late endotoxin tolerance" induced by a single dose of LPS 21 days before did not affect lethality induced by LPS.

## II. WEIGHT LOSS

The next step was to establish the body wasting effect of LPS during the late phase of endotoxin tolerance. Six male F1 Lou/Lewis rats were given single doses of 5 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS on days 0, 21, 42 and 63. Weight loss was registered for 6 days after each challenge. Results represented in Figure 27 show that the first exposure induced a maximal weight loss of 16% by day 2. This amount of weight loss was not reproduced with subsequent challenges with a maximal loss of 10% induced in every case ( $p < 0.0001$  ANOVA). Full recovery of sensitivity to this effect did not seem to occur demonstrating a state of relative insensitivity to the body wasting effect of LPS compatible with "late" endotoxin tolerance ( $p < 0.05$  on day 2, ANOVA).

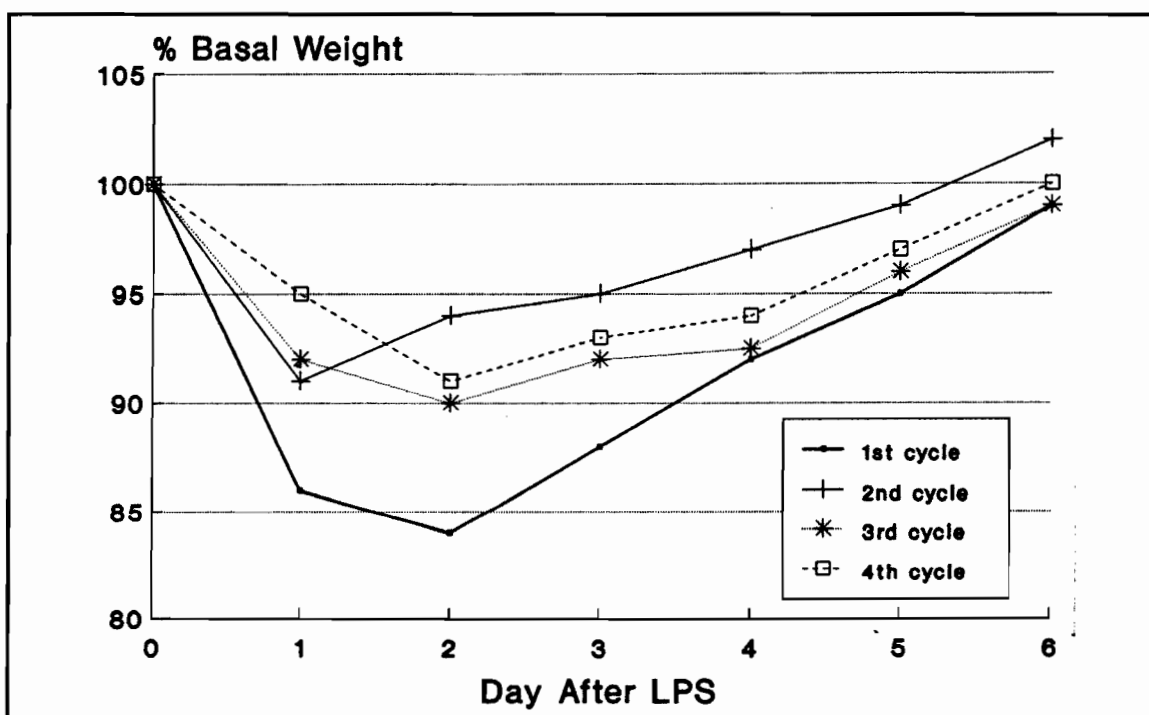


Figure 27. Effect of LPS in Body Weight Loss. A group of rats received single doses of 5 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS on four occasions 21 days apart. Weight loss was registered after each challenge (the day of each challenge is considered Day 0 for that cycle).

The levels of TNF produced in the post-tolerant phase and its correlation with anti-LPS antibodies was then investigated. Lethality and weight loss were also measured to confirm the previous experiments. Male F1 Lou/Lewis rats received 5 mg/kg

LPS on day 0, 21 and 43. On day 66 these post-tolerant rats and age matched naive controls were challenged with LPS at doses of 0.5, 5, 20 or 50 mg/kg of LPS. The survival and total animals per group are shown in Table 9. In this experiment, after 3 cycles of LPS, unlike the previous after only one challenge, the animals were less sensitive to LPS as compared to the naive rats. The relative lethal susceptibility was calculated from the results in Table 8 and the  $LD_{50}$  for the naive rats was 18.8 mg/kg and the  $LD_{100}$  35 mg/kg compared to 35.3 mg/kg and 68.3 mg/kg for the post-tolerant animals. Although not striking, there is a clear difference in sensitivity ( $p < 0.01$  by  $X^2$  with continuity correction at the 20 mg/kg dose).

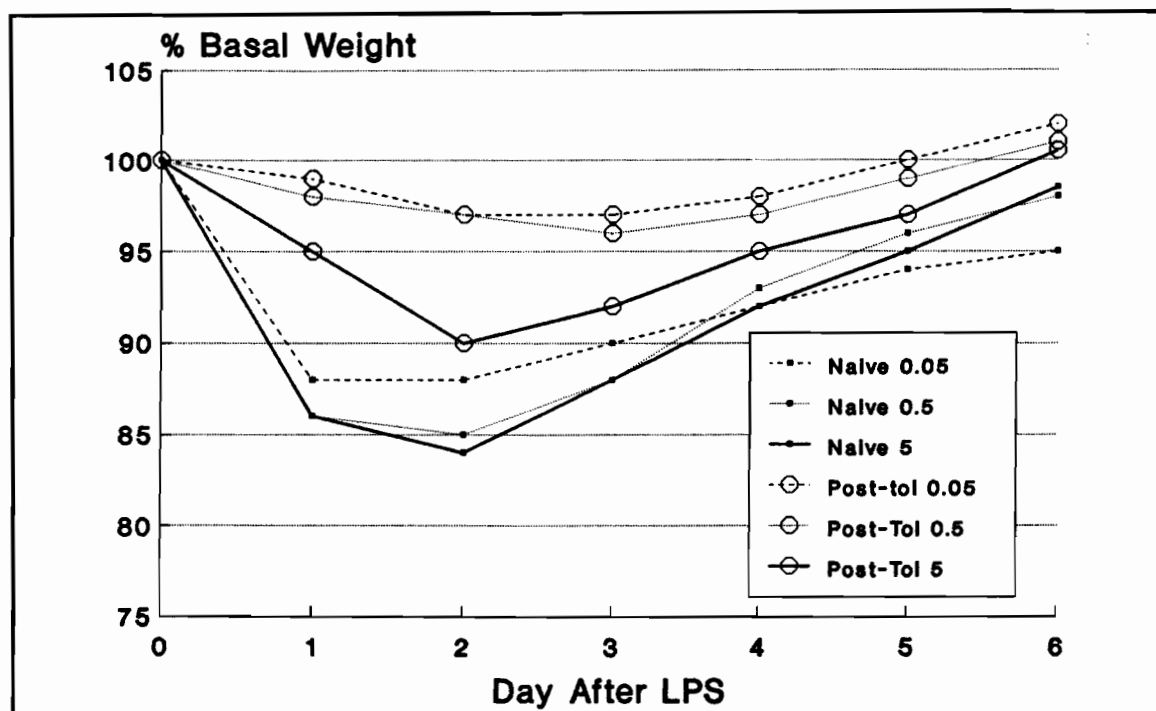
**Table 9. Survival Rate After LPS. Naive v.s. Post-Tolerant Rats**

<b>LPS DOSE</b> (mg/kg)	<b>NAIVE</b>		<b>POST-TOLERANT</b>	
	Survival/tot.	(%)	Survival/totals	(%)
0.05	6/6	(100)	6/6	(100)
0.5	6/6	(100)	6/6	(100)
5	6/6	(100)	8/8	(100)
20	0/6	(0)	5/7	(71.4)
50	0/6	(0)	2/7	(28.5)

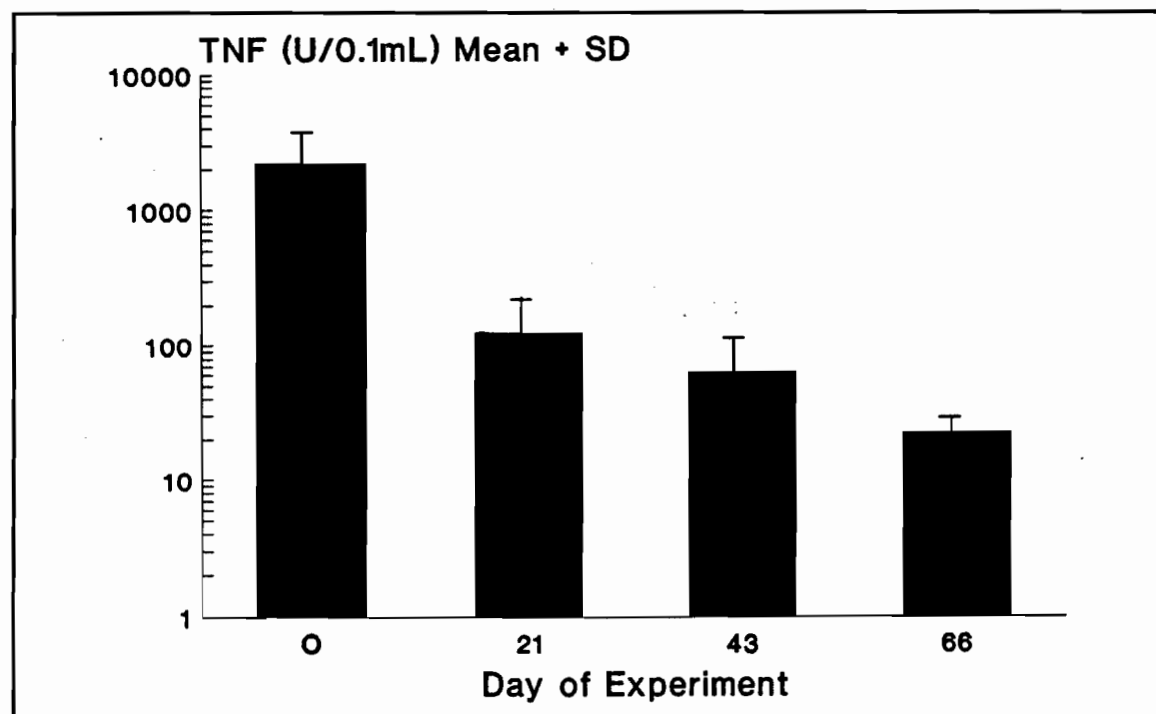
As in the previous experiment, there was only partial recovery of sensitivity to the body wasting effect (Figure 28). At every dose tested, weight loss in the post-tolerant group occurred but it was always greater after the challenge in naive than in post-tolerant rats. In this particular experiment a persistent state of relative insensitivity compatible with late endotoxin tolerance is seen at least during the time span tested.

### **III. PRODUCTION OF TNF**

The impact of LPS tolerance on peak TNF serum levels is shown in Figures 29 and 30. There was a decreasing level of peak serum TNF after each of the 5 mg/kg/dose injections of LPS administered on Days 0, 21, 43 and 66. That is, peak levels obtained after the first dose were never reached again ( $p < 0.0001$  ANOVA) with a drop in peak serum TNF levels after successive challenges. By regression analysis the tendency has an  $r = -0.9493$  (for the log of TNF value) with a  $p = 0.05$ .



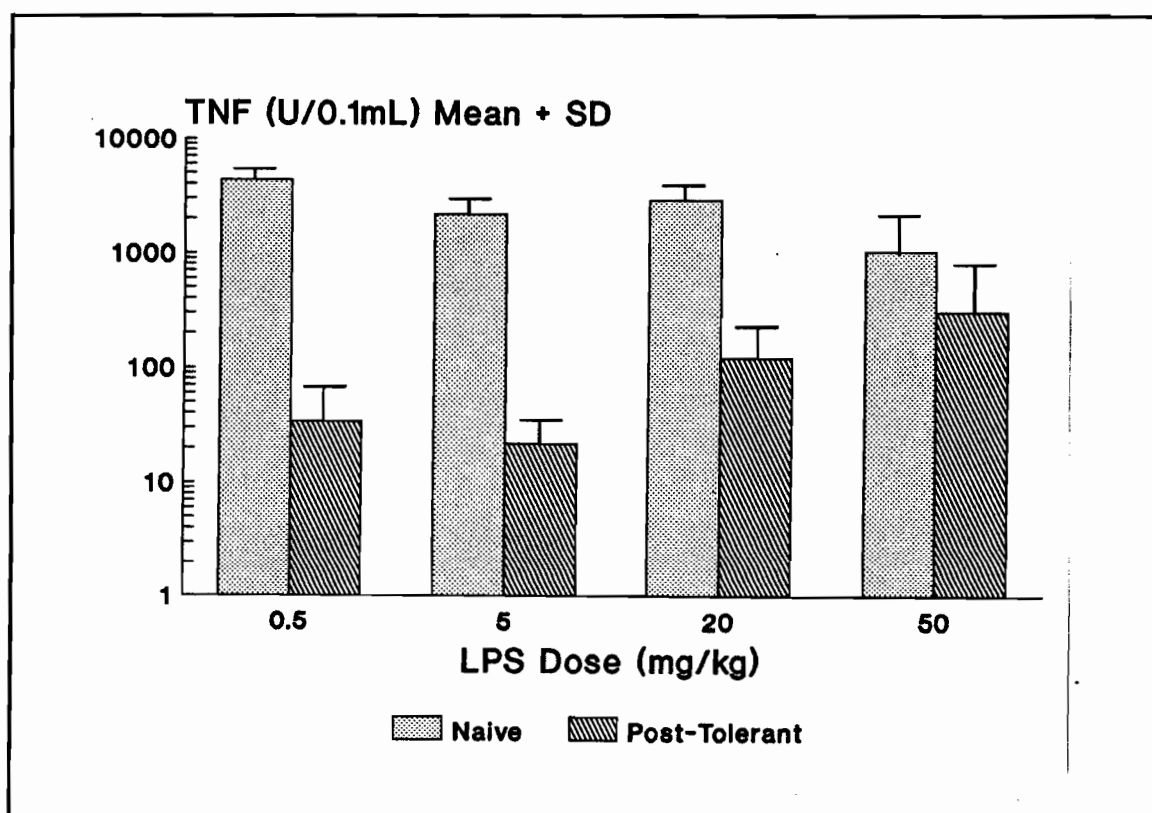
**Figure 28. Effect of Different Doses of LPS in Body Weight Loss.** Post-tolerant rats received three doses of 5 mg/kg LPS 21 days apart to induce late LPS tolerance. On Day 0 (21 days after the third dose) post-tolerant rats and another group of naive rats received single doses of 0.05, 0.5 or 5 mg/kg LPS. Body weight was daily measured after challenge.



**Figure 29. Peak TNF Serum Levels After LPS. Four Consecutive Cycles.** Rats received repeated single doses of 5 mg/kg LPS on four cycles 21 days apart. TNF serum levels after each challenge are shown.

The ability of the different doses of LPS to elicit TNF production after the 4th cycle in comparison to the naive animals is shown in Figure 30. At the lower doses of LPS, as seen in previous experiments, only low levels of TNF are produced in comparison to naive animals ( $p < 0.001$ ). However, unlike the naive animals, increasing doses of LPS elicited increasing levels of TNF. At 50 mg/kg the levels in naive and post-tolerant rats were not significantly different. Also the "tolerant" animals had a good correlation between the dose of LPS and peak TNF serum levels, even using lethal doses ( $r = 0.9924$  with  $p < 0.01$ ).

In the naive rats, after a low dose of LPS (0.5 mg/kg) over 4300 units of TNF were detected but no lethality in this group. In contrast, in the post-tolerant group, 50 mg/kg LPS resulted in just an average of 300 units of TNF but over 70% of the animals died.

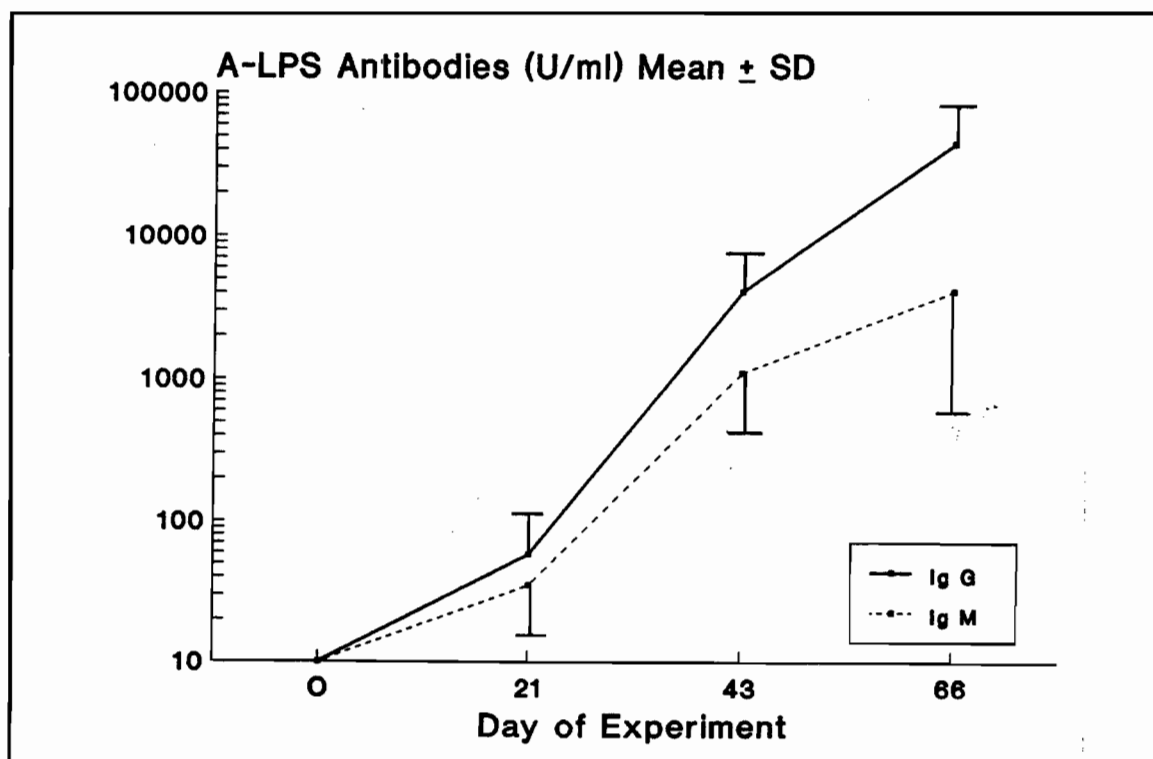


**Figure 30. Peak TNF Serum Levels After LPS. Naive v.s. Post-tolerant Rats.** A group of naive rats received different single doses of LPS (0.5, 5, 20 or 50 mg/kg). Another group of rats (late-tolerant) received three doses of 5 mg/kg LPS on cycles 21 days apart to induce late LPS tolerance. Twenty one days after the third dose this late-tolerant group was challenged with 0.5, 5, 20 or 50 mg/kg LPS. Peak serum TNF levels were measured in both naive and late-tolerant groups after the challenge dose. Matching survival rates are shown in Table 5. \*TNF levels after 0.05 mg/kg in the naive group were not measured and in the late-tolerant were not detectable.



#### IV. ANTI-LPS ANTIBODY LEVELS

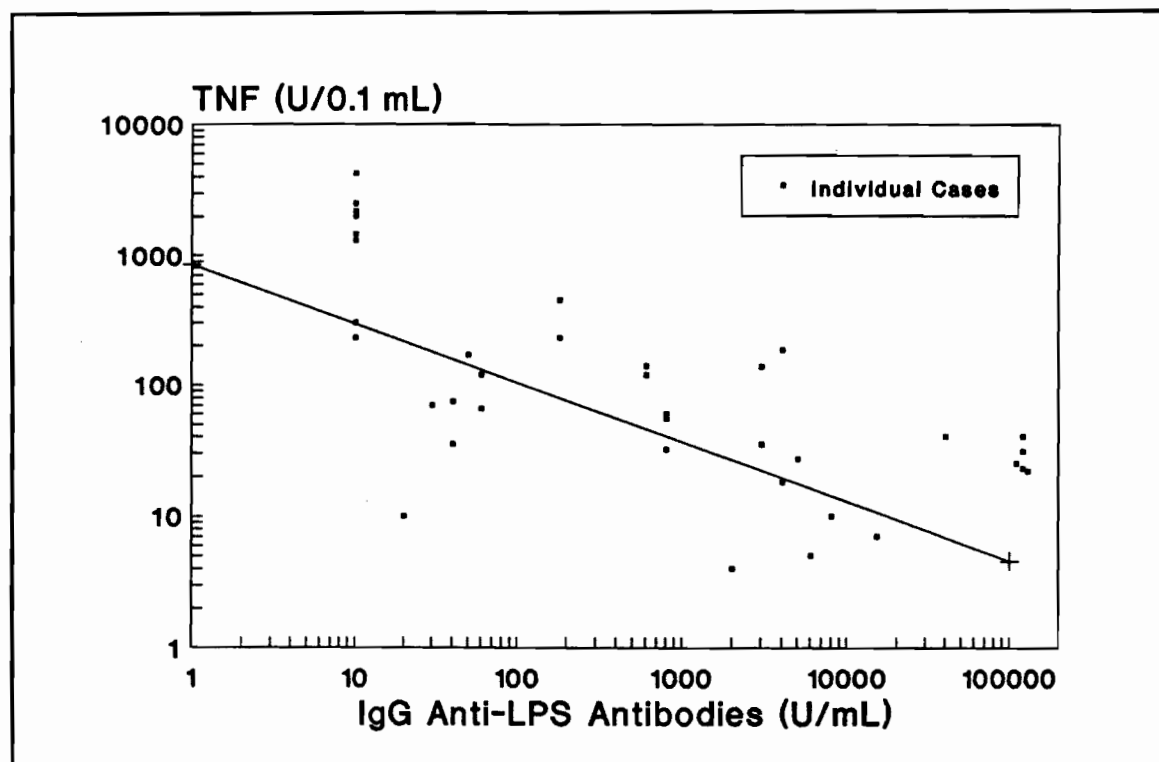
The levels of anti-LPS antibodies present in the serum measured at time of challenge is shown in Figure 31. As expected, IgG and IgM anti-LPS antibody levels constantly increase after each of the 4 cycles. This correlates with the decreasing peak TNF levels. The relationship between Anti-LPS antibody titers and serum TNF levels is plotted (Figure 32), the regression line ( $r = -.6764$  for IgG,  $p < 0.0001$ ) indicates a correlation between anti-LPS antibody titers and serum TNF levels, thus the ability of the increasing amount of LPS to elicit increasing levels of TNF may be related to antibody neutralizing LPS.



**Figure 31.** Anti-LPS Antibody Levels. Rats received repeated single doses of 5 mg/kg LPS on four cycles 21 days apart. IgG and IgM anti-LPS antibodies after each dose of LPS are shown.

The high correlation between increasing anti-LPS antibodies and diminishing peak serum levels of TNF after challenge suggests that the tolerance should be specific for LPS; it was important to know if it was specific for either the O-antigen, lipid A or both. If the low production of TNF seen in late tolerance is dependent on the presence of O-specific antibodies which could be the case when the same type of

LPS used for priming was used as challenge, then a challenge with an unrelated type of LPS should induce TNF levels as high as those induced in naive rats.



**Figure 32.** Correlation between IgG Anti-LPS Antibody Levels and Peak TNF Levels after Challenge during Late LPS Tolerance. Regression line (Log) included.

### RESPONSE TO DIFFERENT TYPE-O LPS DURING LATE ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE

The question of specificity was tested with the following experiment. Late endotoxin tolerance was induced with one type of LPS, then LPS from the same or a different gram-negative bacteria was used as challenge. Late-tolerant male Wistar rats received a priming dose of 3 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS on days 0, 23, and 46. Aged matched naive rats were used as controls. On Day 72, both groups were assigned to 4 sub-groups each; the tolerant sub-groups were I through IV and the naive ones V through VIII. Animals were challenged with (a) 25 mg/kg (LD<sub>100</sub>) or (b) 0.5 mg/kg (non-lethal dose) of *E. coli* O127:B8 or *S. typhosa* LPS. Blood samples were obtained 90 minutes after the challenge dose of LPS and TNF and IgG and IgM anti-*E. coli* LPS and anti-*Salmonella* LPS antibodies were measured. Survival and body weight were monitored. Table 10 shows the type and dose of LPS

used as challenge, the presence (+) or absence (-) of tolerance and the outcome of each sub-group.

The tolerant rats had at best only a weak diminished sensitivity to the lethal effect of LPS both when the same type of LPS (G-I and V) or when an unrelated one were injected (G-III and VII) ( $X^2$  = not significant). Peak serum TNF levels after the challenge (Figure 33) were always higher in the naive than in the tolerant groups ( $p < 0.001$ ). This is particularly striking when *S. typhi* LPS was used to challenge *E. coli* LPS primed rats (Groups III and IV) in clear contradiction with the traditional concept of O-specific dependence for late LPS tolerance.

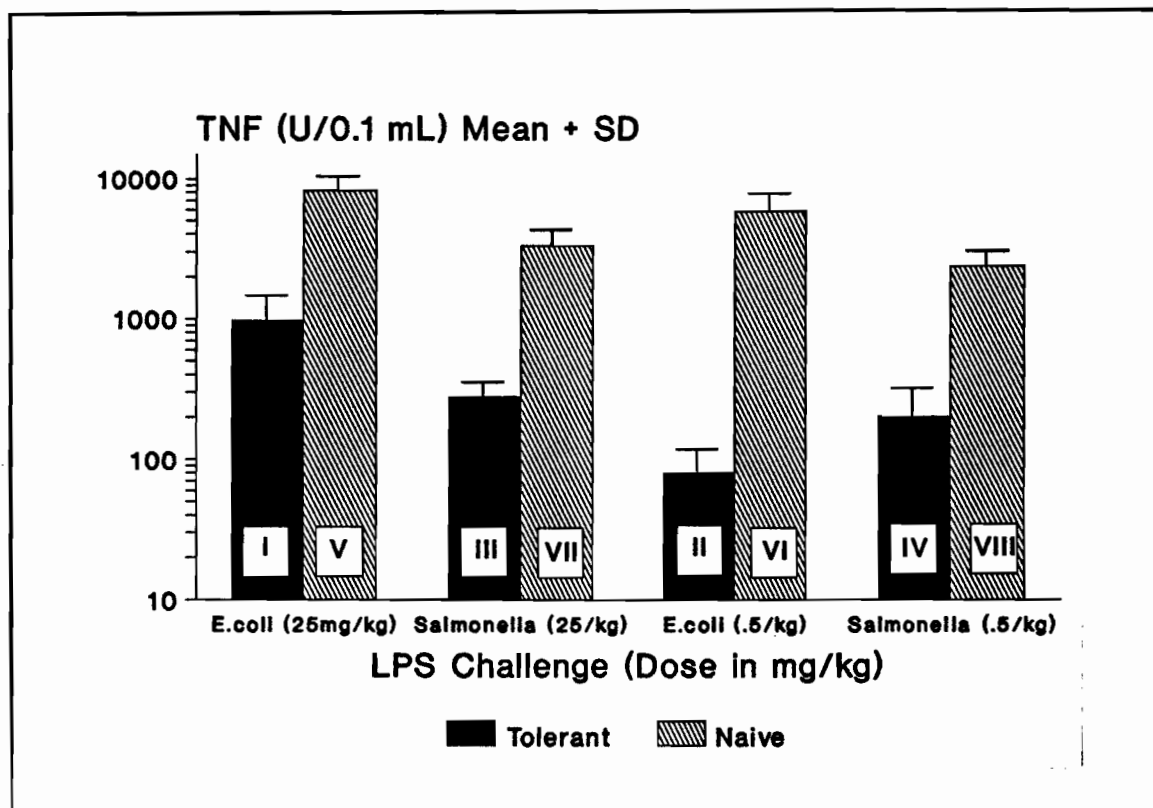
**Table 10. Protocol and Survival Rate. Challenge with Unrelated LPS During Late Tolerance**

GROUP	LPS TYPE	TOLERANT	DOSE (mg/kg)	SURVIVE/TOT
I	<i>E. coli</i>	+	25	1/7
V	<i>E. coli</i>	-	25	0/7
III	<i>S. typhi</i>	+	25	2/7
VII	<i>S. typhi</i>	-	25	1/7
II	<i>E. coli</i>	+	0.5	6/6
VI	<i>E. coli</i>	-	0.5	5/6
IV	<i>S. typhi</i>	+	0.5	6/6
VIII	<i>S. typhi</i>	-	0.5	6/6

As in other experiments, peak TNF serum levels were higher in the tolerant groups after the larger dose of LPS (25 mg/kg) than those induced with a lower dose (0.5 mg/kg Groups I, II, III and IV;  $p < 0.001$  ANOVA). No statistically significant differences were found between peak TNF levels induced with either doses or either types of LPS in the naive rats (Groups V, VI, VII and VIII; ANOVA).

Figure 34 shows anti-*E. coli* IgG and IgM antibodies levels for all sub-groups. Markedly higher levels of anti-LPS antibodies of both classes were evident in the tolerant sub-groups (I to IV) than for the naive sub-groups (V to VIII). The IgM levels (but not IgG) in group I (challenged with 25 mg/kg *E. coli* LPS 90 minutes before the blood sample was obtained) were significantly different ( $p < 0.005$  ANOVA) from the other 3 groups that were equally sensitized but challenged with a

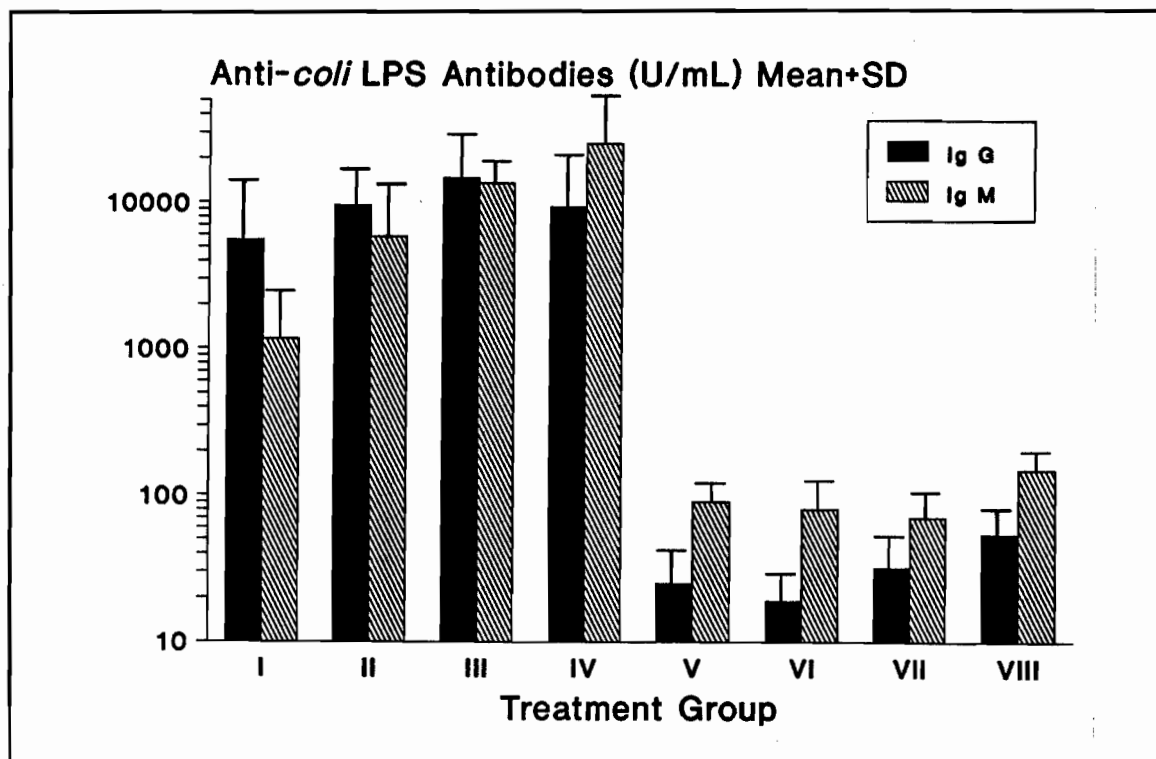
low dose of *E. coli* LPS (G-II, 0.5 mg/kg) or with *Salmonella* LPS (G-III 25 mg/kg, G-IV 0.5 mg/kg) which might be related to antibody consumption by the injected LPS. Decreased levels of anti-*E. coli* LPS antibody after challenge with *E. coli* LPS were shown in the naive groups for IgG where significant differences were found between groups ( $p < 0.05$  ANOVA).



**Figure 33.** Peak TNF Serum Levels After Challenge with homologous or unrelated type of LPS. Tolerant rats were primed with 3 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS on days 0, 23, and 46. Age matched naive rats were used as controls. On day 72 animals were challenged in one or four different possibilities: 1) With 25 mg/kg (LD<sub>100</sub>) of *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS; 2) 0.5 mg/kg of *E. coli* O127:B8 (non-lethal dose); 3) 25 mg/kg of *S. typhi* LPS (LD<sub>100</sub>); or 4) 0.5 mg/kg of *S. typhi* LPS (non-lethal dose). Blood samples were obtained 90 minutes after the challenge dose for TNF measurement.

Results for the anti-*Salmonella* antibodies are shown in Figure 35. There are significantly higher levels of anti-*Salmonella* antibodies in the *E. coli* LPS primed groups (I to IV) (IgG  $p < 0.01$ ; IgM  $p < 0.0001$ , ANOVA) compared to the levels in naive rats (groups V-VIII). This might be considered to be cross-reactive antibodies targeted towards epitopes common to both *E. coli* and *Salmonella* LPS such as the core or the lipid A fragments, or as non-specific cross reactivity secondary to a general over-production of IgG and IgM antibodies induced by repeated injections

of *E. coli* LPS. The presence of the cross-reactive antibodies may explain the failure of the unrelated *Salmonella* LPS to elicit levels of TNF in the *E. coli* primed post-tolerant animals comparable to those of the naive animals.



**Figure 34. IgG and IgM Anti-*E. coli* LPS Antibodies.** Tolerant Rats (I, II, III & IV) were primed with 3 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS on days 0, 23, and 46. Age matched naive rats (V, VI, VII, VIII) were included as controls. On day 72 all rats were challenged: 1) With 25 mg/kg (LD<sub>100</sub>) of *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS; 2) 0.5 mg/kg of *E. coli* O127:B8 (non-lethal dose); 3) 25 mg/kg of *S. typhi* LPS (LD<sub>100</sub>); or 4) 0.5 mg/kg of *S. typhi* LPS (non-lethal dose). Blood samples were obtained 90 minutes after the challenge dose to measure IgG and IgM anti-*E. coli* and anti-*Salmonella* antibodies.

Body weight loss of survivors (groups challenged with 0.5 mg/kg LPS) in this same experiment are shown in Figure 36. In the naive animals *E. coli* LPS was more potent than *Salmonella* LPS inducing weight loss ( $p < 0.001$ ). Average percentage weight loss after the challenge with *E. coli* LPS was  $4.48 \pm 2.7\%$  for the tolerant and  $9.8 \pm 1.07\%$  for naive rats which suggests lower susceptibility to LPS effect in the tolerant ones ( $p < 0.05$ ). The higher titers of anti-*E. coli* antibodies in tolerant animals apparently could account for this difference. Although the challenge with *Salmonella* LPS induced a ten-fold difference in TNF levels between the tolerant (G-IV) and the naive group (G-III) (Figure 33), and notwithstanding also the wide difference in anti-*Salmonella* LPS antibody levels found between them ( $p < 0.05$  for

IgG and IgM) no difference in weight loss induced by *Salmonella* LPS was detected (G-IV  $5.7 \pm 1.8$  %; G-VIII  $5.8 \pm 1.0$  %).

## TNF PRODUCTION AND EFFECT OF ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE IN MODELS OF SEPSIS OTHER THAN LPS ADMINISTRATION

TNF is considered the mediator of gram-negative sepsis, so it was questioned if TNF levels could be detect in blood in models of sepsis other than pure endotoxin administration. Two models were chosen; (1) Intraperitoneal injection of live bacteria and (2) Caecal Ligation and Puncture.

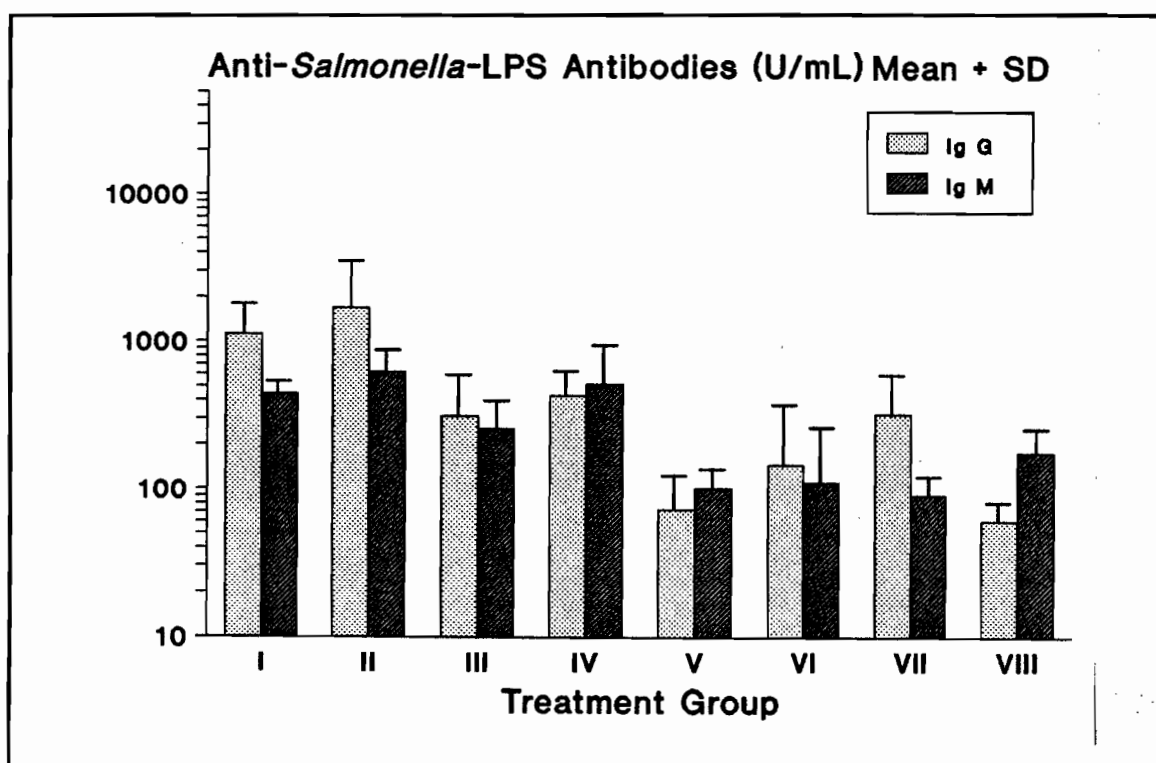


Figure 35. IgG and IgM Anti-*Salmonella* LPS Antibodies. Late Endotoxin Tolerance. See previous footnote.

## I. CONTROL EXPERIMENTS.

### TNF LEVELS IN 3 ANIMAL MODELS.

In the initial experiment, rats were assigned into 3 groups. The first group ( $n=6$ ) received a combined suspension of *E. coli* ( $10^9$  CFU/mL) *S. faecalis* ( $10^9$  CFU/mL) and *B. fragilis* ( $10^7$  CFU/mL); the bacteria were mixed in equal proportion just

before their administration. Three mL of the final mixture per 100 g body weight were injected ip. The actual lethality of this particular mixture was not tested but from previous experience in our laboratory (MacPhee, 1989) it was known to be lethal. A second group (Endotoxin,  $n=3$ ) received 0.5 mg/kg of *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS (non-lethal dose). Caecal Ligation and Puncture with one gauge #18 perforations was practiced in the third group (CLP,  $n=6$ ). Blood samples for TNF determination were obtained every 30 to 60 minutes after the challenge over a period of 8 hours.

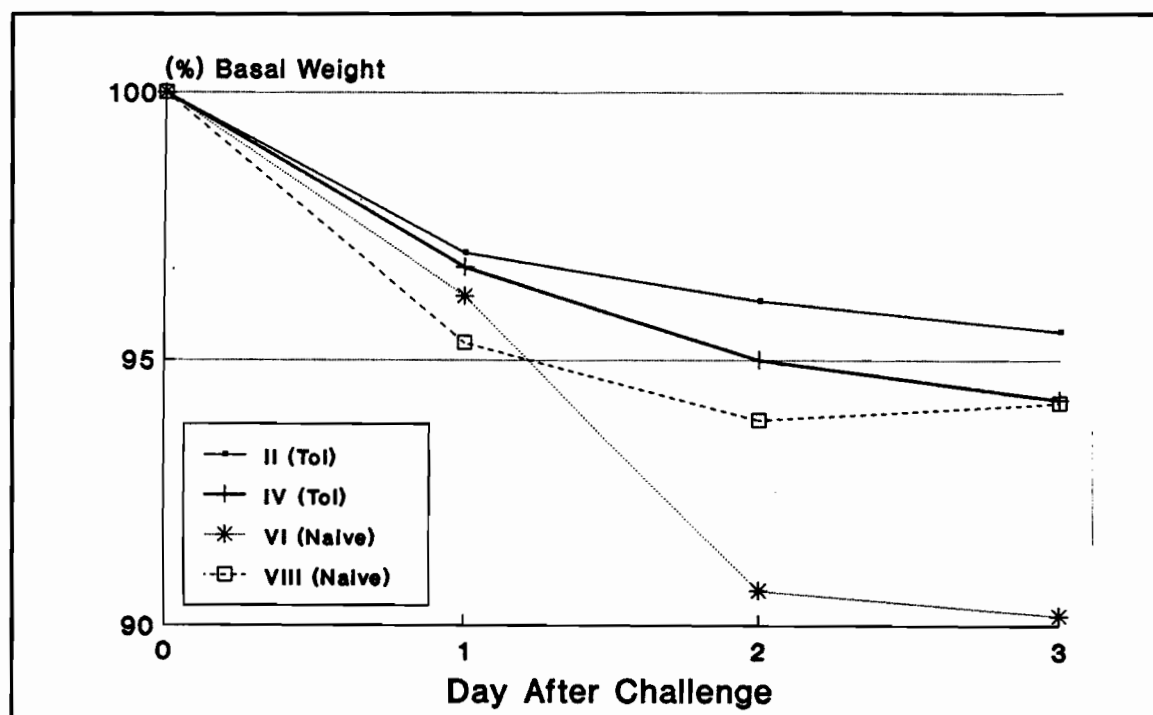


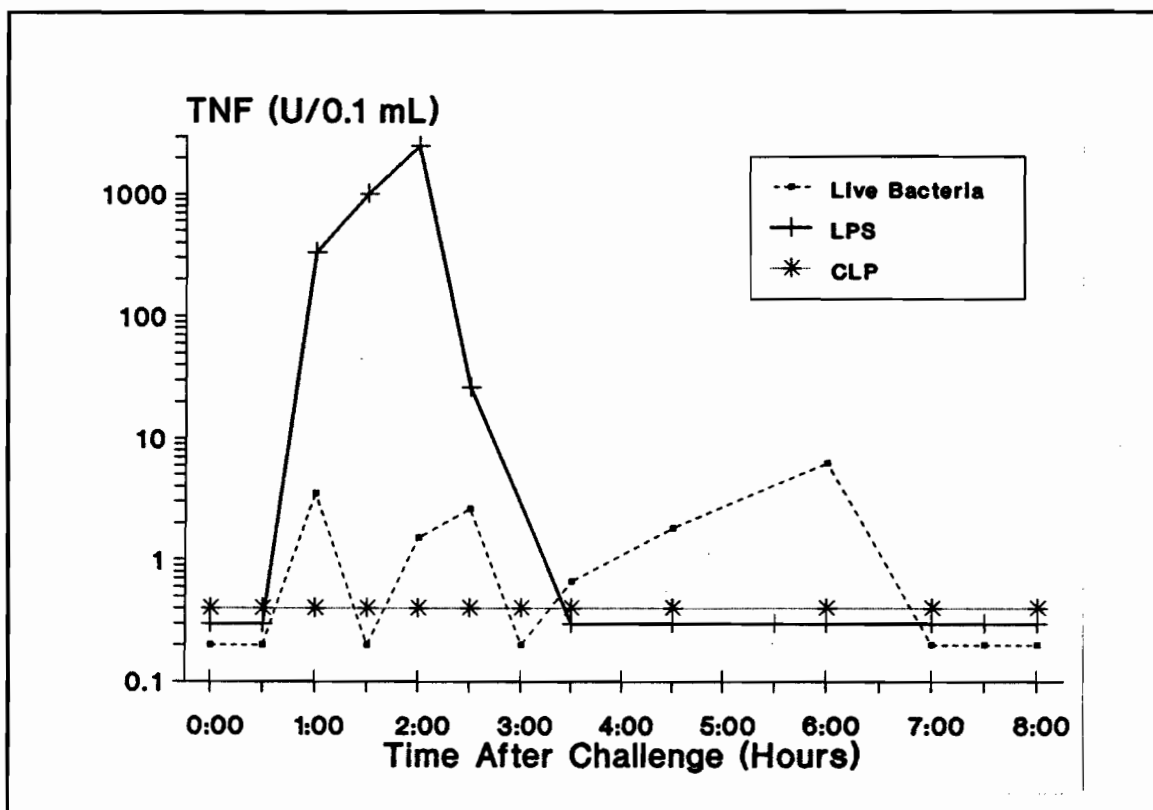
Figure 36. Effect of LPS on Body weight. Late LPS Tolerance. Weight loss induced with 0.5 mg/kg of *E. coli* LPS (II & VI) or *S. typhi* LPS (IV & VIII) in naive or late-tolerant rats.

As expected (Figure 37), LPS challenge induced high peak levels of TNF with a peak at 2 hours returning back to undetectable levels by 3.5 hours. In contrast, TNF could not be detected at any time in the CLP group and only very low levels were shown intermittently at 1, 2, 2.5, 3.5 and 6 hours after the injection in the live bacteria group.

These provocative findings suggested the need for an accurate measurement of lethality with each model, and standardization of the lethality in the three different models to be able to draw conclusions.

### LETHALITY INDUCED BY LIVE *E. COLI* IN BARIUM SULFATE.

Male Wistar rats (150-220 g body weight) were challenged with different concentrations of a pathogenic strain of live *E. coli* (6 rats/dose) prepared as a 50% BHI, 50% saline, 10% (w/v) BaSO<sub>4</sub> mixture in a final volume of 2 mL.



**Figure 37.** Kinetics of Serum TNF Levels in Three Models of Sepsis: Mixed Live Bacteria, LPS and CLP. Rats were challenged with a combined intraperitoneal suspension of live *E. coli*, *S. faecalis* and *B. fragilis*; a dose of 0.5 mg/kg LPS; or caecal ligation and puncture. After challenge, blood samples were obtained every 30 to 60 minutes over 8 hours for TNF determination. Pilot experiment.

Doses of bacteria injected and survival rate at Day 5 are shown in Table 11. From these data the LD<sub>50</sub> was estimated by regression analysis as  $1.94 \times 10^8$  CFU per 100 g body weight.

### LETHALITY INDUCED BY CAECAL LIGATION AND PUNCTURE.

Caecal ligation and one or two #18 gauge punctures were performed on 20 male Wistar rats (10 in each group) to define lethality. At 96 hours survival was 20 % for a single puncture and 10 % after two punctures.



**Table 11. Lethality Five days After ip Live *E. coli* in 10% Barium Sulfate**

GROUP	BACTERIAL DOSE	LETHALITY
	(CFU 100 g body weight)	(%)
I	$2.5 \times 10^8$	56
II	$5 \times 10^8$	83
III	$10 \times 10^8$	100
IV	$20 \times 10^8$	83
V	$40 \times 10^8$	100

## II. COMPARISON OF TNF LEVELS IN 3 STANDARDIZED ANIMAL MODELS OF SEPSIS.

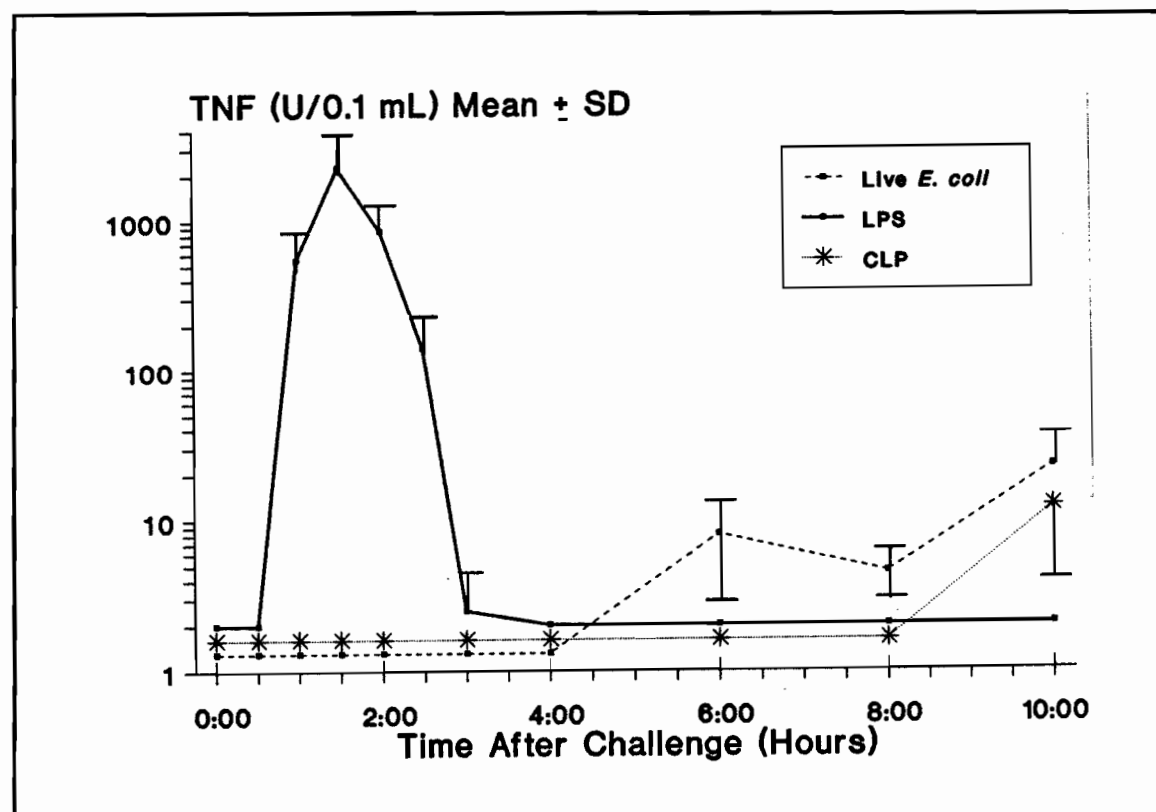
In order to ensure that failure to detect high levels of TNF in the previous experiments was not due to excessive or insufficient doses of bacteria a variant of the experiment was performed. Male Wistar rats were injected with  $5 \times 10^8$  CFU/100 g body weight of live *E. coli* in 10% BaSO<sub>4</sub> bacteria (n=12; LD<sub>75-85</sub>); 18 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS (n=6; LD<sub>50-60</sub>); or with caecal ligation and 2 punctures with a #18 gauge needle (n=12; LD<sub>90</sub>). Blood samples were obtained at 30 to 60 minutes intervals over 10 hours for TNF measurement. The animals were killed at 11 hours.

The LPS challenge induced a peak level of  $2260 \pm 500$  U/0.1 mL of TNF at 90 minutes that dropped back to base line (sub-threshold) levels at 3.5 hours (Figure 38). In the CLP group, TNF levels remained undetectable until 10 hours at which time trace amounts were detected (at this time one of the animals in this group had already died). In the live bacteria group, low levels were measured at 6 and 10 hours. The highest level of TNF measured in the live *E. coli* group was  $22 \pm 13$  Units/0.1 mL at 10 hours. The highest levels detected in the CLP group were even lower. If TNF was produced in the latter two groups after challenge, it certainly was not reaching the circulation.

## III. ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE AND SURVIVAL AFTER CLP.

Based on the assumption that abolishing the host response to LPS (TNF production included) by inducing endotoxin tolerance, a survival advantage should be expected

in models of infection and sepsis such as CLP or live *E. coli* in 10% BaSO<sub>4</sub> in which endotoxin has assumedly a pathophysiologic role. It was asked if early endotoxin tolerance would improve survival in these models.



**Figure 38.** Kinetics of Serum TNF Levels in Three Standardized Models of Sepsis: Live *E. coli* in BaSO<sub>4</sub>, LPS and CLP. Rats were challenged with Live *E. coli* in 10% BaSO<sub>4</sub> (n=12) 18 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS (n=6) or CLP with 2 punctures with a #18 gauge needle (n=12). After challenge, blood samples were obtained every 30 to 60 minutes over 10 hours for TNF determination.

#### A) CAECAL LIGATION AND PUNCTURE MODEL.

F1 Lou/Lewis rats (32 males [M], 20 females [F]) were used in this experiment. Rats were primed with two injections of 0.5 mg/kg of *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS on Days -2 and -1 to induce LPS tolerance (G-II, 10 M, 10 F). Age matched naive rats (11 M, 10 F) were included as controls. On Day 0 caecal ligation and puncture was performed on both groups. A second control group of male rats was included (G-III, Empty Caecum) when it was realized that the priming dose of LPS in the tolerant group provoked diarrhea resulting in the partially empty caecum and intestines observed during the laparotomy of the tolerant rats. Animals in this

group were naive as well and received the same pre-operative treatment as the other controls. In addition, during the CLP procedure their caecum was emptied by milking out its content into the ascending colon and only a volume of feces equivalent to 10-20% of the full capacity was left in its lumen in order to reproduce what was seen in the LPS primed group. Two #18 gauge punctures were performed. Rectal temperature was registered at 3 and 6 hours post-operative (Figure 39) in the first two groups. Blood and peritoneal fluid for culture were obtained at 10 hours post-operative (Tables 12, 13, and 14) and survival rate was monitored over 8 days in all the groups (Table 15).

Survival rates (Table 12) show the highly protective effect induced both by priming with LPS (80%) and by emptying the caecum (90%) compared with the naive controls (14%) ( $p < 0.005$   $X^2$  with continuity correction). The significance of this improved survival will be addressed in the discussion.

**Table 12. Survival Rate after CLP. I-Naive, II-Tolerant and III-Empty Caecum**

GROUP	HOURS POST-CLP			% Survival		ANIMALS PER GROUP
	12	24	48	72	96	
I. Male	91	9	9	9	9	(11)
Female	90	40	20	20	20	(10)
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(21)</b>
II. Male	100	100	90	80	80	(11)
Female	80	80	80	80	80	(9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>(20)</b>
III. Male	100	100	90	90	90	(11)

Bacterial cultures (Table 13) were positive in 78% of the tolerant and in 70% of the naive animals ( $X^2$  not-significant), which highly contrasted with the low number of positives in the empty caecum group (G-III 18%) ( $p < 0.001$   $X^2$ ). Some difference between control G-I and tolerant rats was revealed in the quantitative cultures in which there was showed a four-fold decrease in the average number of bacteria in the tolerant group compared to the naive ones although it was not significant due to the wide variation in the cultures from the individual animals. Both the number of

positives (18%) and the mean counts ( $1.01 \times 10^3$  CFU/mL) were very low in the empty caecum control group, and both values were significantly different from the other two groups when the log of bacterial counts (but not when the actual number of bacterial counts) was tested.

**Table 13. Blood Cultures Ten Hours after CLP. Number of Positives and Quantitative Results**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>POSITIVE CULTURE</b>	<b>CFU/mL</b>	<b>NUMBER OF ANIMALS</b>
I. Naive	78%	$36.7 \times 10^3$	18
II. Primed	70%	$7.04 \times 10^3$	20
III. Empty caecum	18%	$1.01 \times 10^3$	11

Table 14 shows the distribution of single, multiple and negative blood cultures in each group; the differences were non-significant by  $X^2$ . Most of the positive blood cultures (66%) and all peritoneal cultures were polymicrobial (only aerobic cultures were practiced). The varieties of positive cultures (morphologic characterization) are shown in Table 15 and as expected coliform rods were the leading isolates.

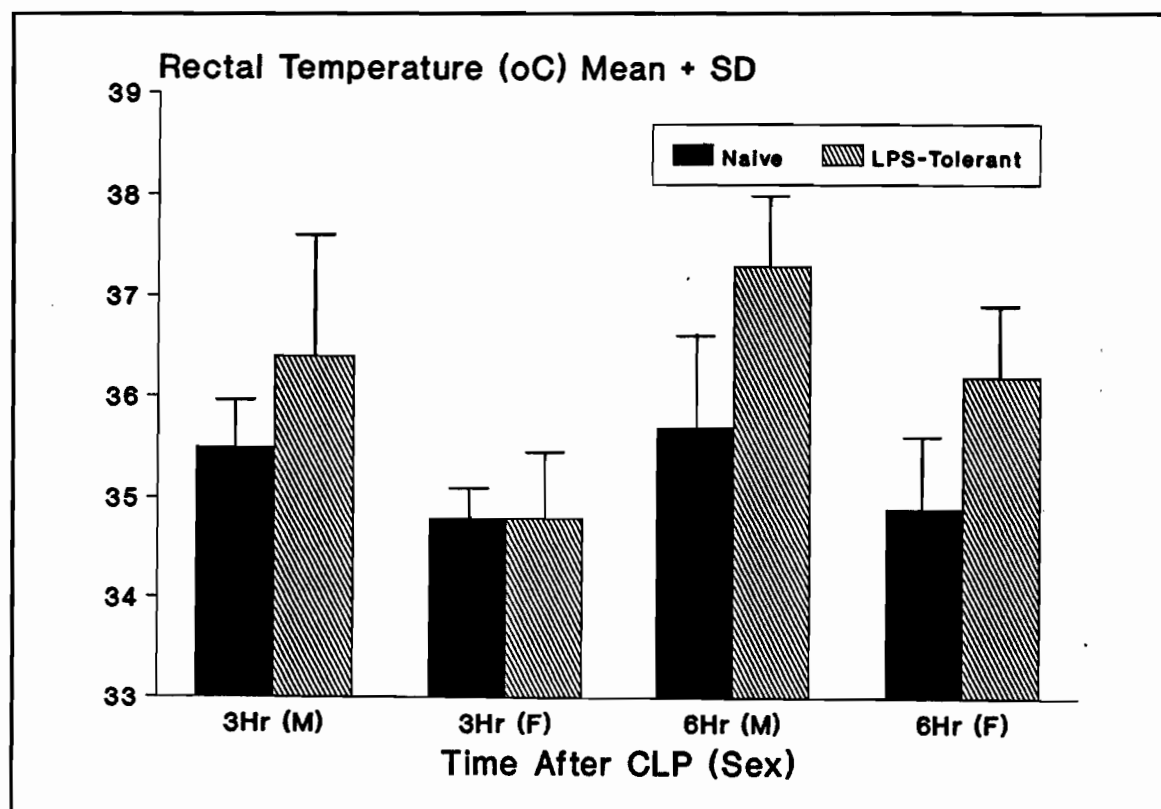
**Table 14. Blood Cultures Ten Hours after CLP. Single species, Polymicrobial or Negative Cultures**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>ONE SPECIES (%)</b>	<b>POLYMICROBIAL (%)</b>	<b>NEGATIVE (%)</b>
I	3/18 (17)	11/18 (61)	4/18 (22)
II	5/20 (25)	9/20 (45)	6/20 (30)
III	2/11 (18)	0/11 (0)	9/11 (82)

Rectal temperature measurements at 3 and 6 hours for control Group I and tolerant rats are shown in Figure 39. Except for the 3 hour measurement in females, all other groups show a significant difference where the development of hypothermia was prevented by priming treatment with LPS and thus endotoxin tolerance ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table 15. Blood and Peritoneal Cultures Ten hours after CLP. Morphological Characterization of Colonies**

<b>PERITONEUM</b>	<b>BLOOD</b>
<i>E. coli</i>	Coliforms
<i>Proteus sp.</i>	<i>Lactobacilli</i>
<i>Pseudomonas sp.</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>
<i>Morganella M.</i>	Gram negative coccobacilli
<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>Enterococcus sp.</i>
<i>Enterococcus sp.</i>	Gram negative cocci
	<i>Streptococcus D</i>
	<i>Candida</i>



**Figure 39. Rectal Temperatures at 3 and 6 Hours Post-CLP. Effect of LPS Tolerance.** Male and female rats were assigned into 2 groups: Naive (no pre-treatment n=21) or Tolerant (pre-treated with two doses of *E. coli* LPS 0.5 mg/kg/dose ip on Days -2 and -1 n=20). On Day 0 caecal ligation and puncture was practiced on all groups. Rectal temperature was measured at 3 and 6 hours post-operative.

#### IV. ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE AND SURVIVAL AFTER LIVE *E. COLI* INJECTION.

The diminished (although not statistically significant) bacterial counts in the tolerant group as compared to the control group I suggested that to some extent, survival could depend on the lower bacterial load due to the LPS induced diarrhea and associated bowel emptiness, as was certainly the case in the empty caecum group, so it was imperative to disclose the effect of tolerance induction upon survival rate once the bacterial load was standardized. The following experiment was done to address this problem.

Male Wistar rats were assigned into 2 groups. Tolerant animals were primed with 5 mg/kg *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS on Day 0 and 2 mg/kg on Day 1. Age matched naive rats were controls. On Day 3 rats were challenged with either *E. coli* O127:B8 LPS (30 mg/kg, LD<sub>80</sub>) (groups I and III) or a suspension of  $10 \times 10^8$  live *E. coli* in 10% sterile BaSO<sub>4</sub> per 100 g body weight (LD<sub>95</sub> by regression analysis) (groups II and IV). Survival rate on Day 5 and body weight in the survivors were monitored (Table 16).

Table 16. Survival Rate and Weight Loss after Live *E. coli* in BaSO<sub>4</sub>. Naive v.s. Endotoxin Tolerant Rats

GROUP	CONDITION	CHALLENGE	SURVIVE/N.	WEIGHT LOSS
I	Tolerant	LPS	9/10	12.6 ± 4.8%
II	Tolerant	<i>E. coli</i>	10/10	11.8 ± 7.1%
III	Naive	LPS	0/6	DEATH
IV	Naive	<i>E. coli</i>	0/10	DEATH

Results demonstrate a 100% lethality in the naive groups for both the LPS challenge and the bacterial inoculum used. A highly protective effect of LPS pre-treatment was also confirmed in both groups tested ( $p < 0.0001$ ,  $X^2$ ). No differences were found in weight loss induced by LPS or by live bacteria in the tolerant rats.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. CURRENT CONCEPT.**

It has been accepted that in most severe infections it is the host response to gram-negative bacteria and their products rather than the action of bacteria themselves, which ultimately threatens the host's tissues in disseminated infections. As pointed out by Thomas "Our arsenals for fighting off bacteria are so powerful and involve so many different defense mechanisms, that we are in more danger from them than from the invaders." "...these (endotoxin) macromolecules are read as the very worst of bad news. When we sense LPS, we are likely to turn on every defense at our disposal" (Thomas, 1974). Superficially it might imply that the overproduction of toxic endogenous compounds (particularly TNF) is an imperfection in the host defense against microbial invasion, or that it is an evolutionary adaptation favoring the removal of infected individuals from a population (Beutler 1989).

This last idea cannot be valid because an evolutionary system that eliminates the individual for the sake of the group such as the one proposed by Beutler would not represent a selection advantage because evolutionary pressure can only emerge and take action on an individual bases. I would rather propose more simply, that the mammalian system was probably not meant to survive this septic process, and it is the result of the sophisticated technological support available that we are able to glimpse progressive systemic infection to reach such a state where MSOF can unfold. In some way, our human-developed resources are allowing us to try against the odds, to push the line drawn by nature a bit further. Accordingly, the ultimate therapeutic measure that should be contemplated in this regard probably does not lie in the capacity to counteract the process of MSOF once initiated, but rather to bear in mind that there might be no "magic bullet"; that therapeutic regimens will probably be time dependent and "multiple drug"; and that the only way to avoid the tragic impact of septic shock and MSOF would be to prevent its start in the first place (Stahl 1988; Cerra 1987).

### **II. DISAGREEMENT.**

As soon as I got involved with endotoxin and the mediators of sepsis, serious questions about the validity of some conclusions drawn from the endotoxin models

of sepsis were raised and it was found difficult to make congruent the existence of a phenomenon like endotoxin tolerance with the assumed role of LPS or TNF as mediators of sepsis.

The foundation of my concern rests upon the concept that mammals have the capacity to develop tolerance to LPS's toxic effects. Therefore, in clinical infections, where a rather incremental appearance of LPS is conceivable, one would expect to see that early in the course of an infection, LPS would elicit a powerful inflammatory reaction and synchronous immunologic and phagocytic activation. Later in the course of the infection, a state of endotoxin tolerance could develop which would prevent immunologic damage by avoiding overreaction. At the end the whole response should have proceeded under tight control enabling the damage provoked both by the infectious process itself and by the reaction unfolded to combat it, to be maintained at the very minimum.

Obviously such a smooth course and favorable outcome is not always the case in clinical infections where enough evidence points out to a well defined immunologic participation in sepsis and MSOF. And yet, the *gram-negative infection - endotoxin - TNF and other mediators - tissue damage* model is not entirely satisfactory and several facts seemed to reject this hypothesis.

TNF might be a co-factor in the pathophysiology of sepsis and MSOF with potent synergistic activity however the present results in no way support that TNF has the capacity to induce lethal damage, as demonstrated by the highest TNF levels induced by non-lethal doses. The results also show that TNF is not a requisite for a lethal outcome secondary to LPS as low levels of TNF are present after lethal doses of LPS in post-tolerant animals, and in other models of gram-negative infection such as ip injection of live *E. coli* or CLP, the TNF is barely detectable.

### III. THE MODEL OF ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE.

My intention in this project has been to explore the gap between the pathophysiology of severe bacterial infection and the LPS-induced shock syndrome. The first steps were given to expand the concept of endotoxin tolerance.



During the course of severe clinical infections, progressive deterioration and multisystemic damage are considered secondary to repeated endogenous bolus or continuous leakage of endotoxin coming from the infectious foci or from the gut. Nevertheless, when I tried to reproduce such a system in an animal model, quite different results were obtained. The effect of different schedules of ip administration of LPS upon weight loss was analyzed. Single dose (Figure 6); repeated daily injections (Figure 7); or continuous infusion over 7 days (Figure 8) showed that the induced weight loss and its subsequent recovery was very similar regardless of the schema of LPS administration (Figure 9). This suggested that the animals could respond only to the first exposure to LPS and that once the response was triggered, little or no further effect was provoked by repeated challenges, a process which is not readily compatible with the *infection-endotoxin-TNF-sepsis* theory.

The mechanisms for weight loss in this model is mainly reduction in food intake and diarrhea (Fraker 1988; Socher 1988), although increased catabolic state also occurs (Sacco-Gibson 1989; Spitzer 1989). These responses to LPS including the metabolic one become temporarily refractory and no further reaction is elicited by added amounts of LPS during endotoxin tolerance (Lang 1987).

A similar type of acquired resistance to LPS-induced body weight loss has been identified following repeated administrations of TNF (Fraker 1988; Socher 1988) and IL-1 (Otterness 1989). However, Tracey et al reported sustained low food intake at a 60% level compared to controls under repeated twice daily injections of TNF up to 8 days as long as the dose of TNF was doubled every time they detected the development of tolerance (Tracey 1988). The problem with this model is that increasing TNF levels over several days does not reproduce the sudden and transient levels seen after endotoxin challenge.

The next purpose of the experiments was to define the kinetics of TNF production after a challenge with endotoxin, the results are shown in Figure 10. In 1970 Daniele demonstrated in dogs that 30% or more of the ip injected endotoxin can be recovered from the abdominal cavity 10 hours after a bolus administration (Daniele 1970), thus it was no surprise that there was little difference in the kinetics of serum TNF generation found between the continuous and bolus intra-peritoneal injection of LPS. The main difference most probably was the dose. The pump contained 0.2

mL of a 20 mg/mL solution equivalent to 1.2  $\mu$ L per hour or 24  $\mu$ g of LPS equivalent to 120  $\mu$ g/kg for a 200 g rat. This quantity plus the amount that could have been contaminating the external surface of the pump, minus the amount that was not absorbed from the abdominal cavity was the actual challenge. A dose as low as 5  $\mu$ g/kg injected ip was later proven to be quite capable of inducing a high peak of serum TNF (Figure 12).

Waage (1987) has also observed that continuous infusion of LPS induced sustained levels of circulating LPS but a single peak of TNF at 1 hour followed by decrease to undetectable levels by 2 hours. The same kinetics of LPS-induced TNF are present in other animal models and in humans. This is the reason why the decision was made to always obtain the blood samples 90 minutes after the LPS injection.

The momentary peak of TNF induced by LPS followed by a rapid disappearance to undetectable levels is another reason why one can question the role of TNF in clinical sepsis and that is why we find futile the search for high serum TNF levels in human sepsis as a prognostic factor which has been deceptive in most cases and although it is claimed to be found a correlation between mortality and higher serum TNF levels, in the few cases that report it, insufficient data has been presented to arrive at definitive conclusions (Damas 1989; Debets 1989).

#### IV. PEAK TNF LEVELS AND MORTALITY.

Experiments were then performed to define the dose/response relation for peak TNF levels and LPS dose. A lack of correlation was found, on the one hand, between LPS dose and peak TNF levels (Figure 11) and on the other, between peak levels of TNF and lethality, both of which are difficult to explain. Possible explanations are: (1) TNF is not the mediator of the lethal effect of LPS it is actually a protective response like many other ones elicited by gram-negative infection associated-LPS. (2) The kinetics of TNF vary when different doses are used and although peak levels are not as high after higher and more lethal doses of endotoxin, a probable diminished inactivation time will actually maintain damaging levels of TNF for longer period of times than with non-lethal doses. (3) Due to altered hemodynamics and poor tissue perfusion in the lethally challenged animals, TNF is inactivated *in situ* and cannot reach the systemic circulation, thus it is not detectable.

The first argument is a motive for much of the present discussion. The foremost opponent issue to this argument is the protective effect that the administration of anti-TNF antibodies had shown in several experimental models that have been referred to in the review of the literature.

Related to the second argument of different kinetics, Mathison, Wolfson and Ulevitch in a very interesting paper reported that injection of LPS-High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) complexes produced a much better dose/response correlation with peak TNF levels than pure LPS, but once maximal production of TNF is reached with a high enough dose of LPS-HDL as in case of pure LPS administration, no further amounts could be induced neither increasing the dose nor repeating the injections in disregard to the effect upon blood pressure and other parameters of hemodynamic compromise that the different doses or preparations induced. Even if LPS was combined with HDL (which is believed by some to be the more natural condition expected in clinical infections), a peak was detected at 90 minutes followed by a quick reduction and return to base line levels within 3 to 4 hours. Furthermore, the same authors demonstrated that the pharmacokinetics of exogenous TNF injected into naive or into endotoxin-tolerant animals were the same (Mathison 1988). In humans, no dose/response correlation was found between iv administration of TNF and the peak temperature (Hesse 1988) or hypotension induced (Chapman 1987). In non-primed mice, optimal production of TNF was obtained with non-lethal doses of LPS and higher doses were not able to induce higher levels of TNF (Gifford 1987).

Lastly, in relation to the third possibility, a recent publication reported that comparable peak TNF levels were generated upon injection with LPS, or the LPS sub-fractions diphosphoryl lipid A or monophosphoryl lipid A; while the first two preparations were lethal and the latter was not (Kiener 1988). In our experience, TNF levels after higher dose of LPS - specifically over 20 mg/kg - elicit lower TNF levels than non-lethal doses. This same decrement was also evident when preparations of LPS with low-toxicity were injected (*E. coli* O26:B6) without being lethal (Figure 23) so the vascular collapse explanation cannot satisfy the apparent conflict. All these arguments, tend to invalidate the proposition that different kinetics and different half lives of TNF are the reason for the lack of correlation between peak LPS induced-TNF serum levels and the ensuing lethality.

## **V. INTRAPERITONEAL ENDOTOXIN AND SYSTEMIC TNF.**

An issue relevant to understand the role of LPS in gram-negative sepsis is to find out how much free endotoxin is actually released into the systemic circulation from a gram-negative bacterial infectious foci or after bowel perforation. Such measurement of LPS in thoracic duct lymph, arterial plasma or portal vein plasma after producing caecal perforation was done by Olofsson and colleagues who estimated that the inflow of endotoxin by way of the portal vein and the thoracic duct carried out of the abdominal cavity most of the endotoxin. The amount calculated never exceeded 300 ng/kg per hour. The same authors also showed that minimal amounts of endotoxin were actually measured at any point in arterial plasma and explained this fact on the bases of an extremely powerful endotoxin clearing capacity of the rat liver reportedly of 1.5  $\mu\text{g/g}$  liver per hour (Olofsson 1986) equivalent to 9-10  $\mu\text{g/hour}$  for a 200 g rat.

In Figure 12 it was shown that peak TNF levels are much lower when less than 0.05 mg/kg LPS are injected ip. Actually, the lowest dose capable of inducing detectable levels of TNF was 5  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ . Considering these amounts of LPS required to generate detectable levels of TNF, it is no surprise that both the injection of live *E. coli* in barium sulphate and caecal ligation and puncture induced only trace amounts of serum TNF (Figure 38) compared to the levels reached after the injection of pure LPS.

## **VI. TOLERANCE AND RECOVERY OF RESPONSIVENESS. MECHANISMS OF ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE.**

The duration of endotoxin tolerance and its relation with LPS dose and induced TNF levels were then studied. Results confirmed that during early endotoxin tolerance there was no sensitivity to the lethal or the body wasting effects of LPS, but 30 days after, full recovery of responsiveness to LPS ensued (Figure 13 and 14). In fact, as shown in Table 5 and Figure 26, lethal susceptibility in the post-tolerant rats 21 or 30 days after a single priming dose of LPS was higher than in the naive animals but 21 days after three tri-weekly repeated doses of LPS (Table 9) an unequivocal decrease in sensitivity was demonstrated.

In relation to TNF production during and after early endotoxin tolerance some relevant work has been previously done. O'Malley et al (1962) demonstrated that the tumor necrotizing effects of sera from normal mice given *Serratia marsescens* endotoxin was short lived and further production was refractory to repeated endotoxin challenge. This raised the question if there was lack of TNF production after a second injection of LPS during endotoxin tolerance in our model. Naive animals however (Figure 15), generated very high peak levels. Two days later, a second injection of LPS induced minimal TNF levels. Recovery of TNF production was gradual from Day 2 onwards although the tempo of recovery was slower when tolerance was induced with higher than with lower doses of LPS. Compatible results have been found in a rabbit model where injection of a second dose of 10  $\mu$ g LPS 5 hours after the first one did not induce a detectable TNF release (Mathison 1988).

In Flick's model of mice injected with LPS, tolerance persisted for at least seven days, and even a 10-fold increase in LPS dose was not able to induce detectable levels of TNF when administered 48 hours after priming the animals (Flick 1986a), and according to Waage, when a second injection of LPS is given to rats within 3 days of the priming dose, peak concentration of TNF detected after the second injection was 15% of the concentration detected after the first one (Waage 1987). A similar lack of LPS induced-mediator production during early LPS tolerance has been demonstrated for colony-stimulating factor (Williams 1983; Madonna 1985; Vogel 1987) and for prostaglandins PGE<sub>2</sub> and PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  (Rietschel 1982).

Tolerance is not due to an immune mechanism; if antibodies to LPS were involved, one would expect to observe a late developing and long lasting state of refractoriness instead of the early short lived one seen. When anti-LPS antibodies are not present at day 2, sensitivity to LPS is in its nadir, and by day 20 when titers are high (Figure 16), responsiveness is recovered.

## VII. INDUCTION OF ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE. LOW DOSES AND LOW TOXICITY LPS.

The clinical relevance of endotoxin tolerance and the associated refractoriness to the deleterious effects of the endogenous mediators of inflammation is evident, but for this phenomenon to ever be available as a therapeutic tool, the priming mechanism should have low possibilities of inducing adverse effects. For this reason

it was questioned if low doses of LPS that would not induce overt toxicity were capable of inducing tolerance.

In a preliminary experiment (Figure 17) it was probed if doses of LPS much lower than a lethal one would induce LPS tolerance. It was learned that a dose 1/100 of a LD<sub>50</sub> was capable of preventing death and diminishing LPS induced weight loss after a challenge 2 days later. Even more, a dose of 0.5 µg/kg LPS (1/45000 LD<sub>50</sub>) while unable to induce body weight loss (Figure 18) or detectable levels of TNF (Figure 19) was still capable of inducing LPS tolerance as shown by markedly improved survival (5 out of 6 rats or 83%) following an LD<sub>100</sub> dose of LPS (Table 6) and by a diminished production of TNF after a challenge compared with non-tolerant rats (Figure 19).

Several lines of evidence suggest not only that low doses of LPS can induce tolerance but that neither TNF nor toxicity are needed for endotoxin tolerance to develop. First, pre-treatment of rabbits with rHuTNF did not diminish the amount of LPS-induced endogenous TNF reflecting a lack of tolerance (Ulevitch 1989). Second, pre-treatment with anti-TNF globulin resulted in neutralization of LPS-induced serum TNF activity and toxicity after a primary dose, and yet a subsequent injection of LPS failed to induce detectable levels of TNF or lead to clinical signs of toxicity, thus hyporesponsiveness was induced by LPS in the absence of detectable levels of serum TNF (Mathison 1988). Third, in our own experience endotoxin tolerance could be prolonged by continuous infusion of small amounts of endotoxin as shown by hyporesponsiveness to an additional LPS bolus as shown by very low levels of induced-TNF production (Figure 20) and diminished loss of body weight (Figure 21). In this experiment, no detectable levels of TNF were induced by the small amounts of LPS being continuously infused (data not shown). Fourth, when TNF was first induced with double-stranded poly(I:C), tolerance did not develop and either poly(I:C) and LPS could induce more TNF after the second injection. On the other hand, when LPS was used for the first injection, the mice were tolerant and neither LPS nor poly(I:C) given on day 2 would induce TNF synthesis again (Flick 1986).

Having shown that lethal or non-lethal doses of the same endotoxin could induce the same amount of TNF, and that doses of LPS low enough to prevent toxicity or TNF production could still induce endotoxin tolerance, the next problem was to

define if tolerance could be induced with preparations of LPS with low toxicity and if there was correlation between LPS induced-TNF production and lethal potency using LPS of different O-specificities.

It was found that one of the LPS preparations used, namely *E. coli* O26:B6 LPS was remarkably different in toxic potential. Nevertheless, the amount of TNF induced with this preparation was similar to peak TNF levels induced with the same doses of other more toxic preparations (Table 7, Figure 22 and 23).

An explanation for lack of toxicity of LPS may be related to its polysaccharide moieties. Galanos et al has found that preparations of isolated endotoxins, which themselves had no detectable complement consuming activity, nevertheless, contained a lipid A which after isolation by mild acid hydrolysis actively consumed complement. These data suggest that the presence of polysaccharide modulates the full expression of the anti-complementary activity of lipid A. In addition, the study demonstrated that the anti-complementary activity of isolated lipid A was highly dependent on its degree of aggregation and solubility (Galanos 1971).

It has also been reported that polysaccharide-free lipid A obtained from *E. coli* O26:B6 LPS could consume significant amounts of C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>2</sub> in human serum. In contrast, the polysaccharide-containing LPS, consumed minimal C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>2</sub> but was equally efficient at converting C<sub>3</sub> and Factor B in both normal and C<sub>2</sub>-deficient serum (Lachmann 1974) reflecting different biological effects depending on the modulatory effect of the polysaccharide side chains. Finally, in a recent study, using hybrid LPS aggregates (containing polysaccharide-rich or lipid A-rich hybrids) in a mitogenic assay, it was demonstrated that the polysaccharide portion of LPS could negatively regulate the expression of lipid A in LPS micellar aggregates (Vukajlovich 1985). This would explain that a particular type of LPS could be not as toxic as others depending on the content of polysaccharide chains it contained; however the fact that non-toxic preparations induce comparable levels of TNF as the toxic ones is difficult to fit into the traditional concept of *endotoxin - TNF - lethality*.

There is no total agreement on the capacity of non-toxic fragments of lipid A to induce LPS tolerance (Sayers 1987) so it was questioned if a low-toxicity LPS would induce tolerance to other more toxic preparations of endotoxin, and if during LPS

tolerance the injection of a different type of LPS than the one used to prime would be associated with decreased levels of TNF. The results (Table 8 and Figures 24 and 25) corroborated that (1) early LPS tolerance is not O-antigen specific. (2) It was also demonstrated that tolerance could be induced with preparations of LPS with low-toxicity and still conferred protection from preparations with high toxicity. (3) It was shown that even though O26:B6 LPS-induced tolerance did not completely prevent TNF production induced with a lethal challenge of the toxic type O127:B8 LPS (Figure 25, Day 4) it did prevent mortality.

This is compatible with published data. Golenbock's group found that natural lipid X had little toxicity, low pyrogenicity, provoked low grade pulmonary hypertension, and prevented lethality (but not neutropenia or moderate hypotension) from a lethal dose of LPS in sheep (Golenbock 1987). Proctor (1986) found natural lipid X non-lethal even at doses of 5000  $\mu$ g ip in mice which was capable of inducing LPS tolerance even when given up to 6 hours after an LD<sub>100</sub> of LPS.

#### **VIII. LATE ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE. MODIFIED RESPONSE TO LPS.**

The next problem addressed was the modified response to LPS once sensitivity to endotoxin was recovered after early endotoxin tolerance. The response to endotoxin was evaluated in terms of weight loss, mortality and TNF production and for obvious reasons, the relation of the response to anti-LPS antibody levels was analyzed.

The eventual long-lasting decrement in sensitivity to the lethal effect of LPS after repeated priming doses has been discussed above.

Sensitivity to weight loss was not fully recovered 21 days after a single priming dose (Figure 27). Actually, repeated injections did not further decrease sensitivity to this effect (Figure 28). Results also show that tolerance after 3 cycles was more readily evident when low (0.5 or 0.05 mg/kg) rather than high (5 mg/kg) doses of LPS were used to challenge the rats which suggest a dose-dependent degree of tolerance.

TNF production did not fully recover either after a single or after repeated priming doses of LPS. In fact, peak levels of TNF decreased progressively over successive cycles of booster doses of LPS (Figure 29). Interestingly, after 3 cycles of



LPS the dose/response curve showed that LPS dose and peak TNF levels did correlate in contrast with what was shown in the naive rats (Figure 30). Nevertheless, levels of 4344 U of TNF per 0.1 mL of serum seen after 0.5 mg/kg LPS in naive animals associated with no mortality on the one hand, and a mean peak level of 306 U of TNF per 0.1 mL after 50 mg/kg LPS associated with 71% mortality in the post-tolerant group on the other are disturbing (Table 9 and Figure 30).

An approach to bring this into terms with the general concept of TNF as the mediator of sepsis is to assume that a more efficient system for TNF action is achieved and a lesser amount of the cytokine is capable of inducing quantitatively the same effect after repeated exposure to endotoxin and TNF. This could be due to higher numbers or higher affinity of the TNF receptors; no evidence however exists for either case, and actually, it is known that exposure to LPS or IL-1 down-regulates specific surface receptors at least *in vitro* (Mizel 1987; Matsushima 1986).

Alternative explanations of this lack of correlation between TNF levels and lethal outcome are:

(1) TNF is not the mediator of the lethal effect of LPS, and the actual mediator (if one ought to exist) is still being released in high enough amount to kill.

(2) Serum levels of TNF are actually irrelevant but the presence of TNF in extravascular tissues is what matters.

There is considerable evidence against this simplification. Nine day old Meth A tumors but not earlier ones, are at the most sensitive time for induction of necrosis by LPS. These tumors have the highest concentrations of neutrophils at the time of treatment not in the tumor mass but in the blood vessels reflecting that is in the vascular compartment, most probably the endothelium, where the actual effect of endotoxin is taking place. Also by 9 days, the tumor's vascular bed has been developed, and before this happens, tumors are resistant to the action of TNF (Palladino 1987).

It is not clear what properties allow certain vascular beds to rupture in response to TNF and not others. In the implanted tumor, the endothelium is immature (approximately eight days), in contrast to the endothelium of the adult rat caecum,

which is reportedly, also highly reactive to TNF. In both tissues there is rapid cell division. Since the GI tract has been shown to accumulate approximately 90% of the total injected TNF in mice after eight minutes (Beutler 1985), perhaps the number of endothelial TNF receptors is particularly rich in these region and thus, the GI tract becomes particularly sensitive to a systemic inflammatory reaction. In any case, the relevant factor seems to be once more within the vascular compartment.

Another argument that favors the intravascular space as the arena where events leading to the development of sepsis has been presented by Gollan et al who were unable to prevent mortality in dogs given endotoxin intravenously and exchange transfusion 5 minutes later (Gollan 1979). Greisman et al had similar result in a rabbit model doing the exchange transfusion 20 minutes after the injection of endotoxin (Greisman 1983).

(3) Anti-LPS antibodies have dampened the TNF-inducing capacity of LPS. This is actually the mostly favored opinion explaining pyrogenic tolerance during late LPS tolerance as was presented in the review, but, as Milner warns us, extrapolation of these results (on pyrogenic tolerance in rabbits) to other effects or other animals should be avoided (Milner 1973).

Figure 31 shows progressively increased titers of both IgG and IgM anti-LPS antibodies as expected. This very nicely correlates (Figure 32) with the decreasing peak TNF serum levels induced by the same LPS dose at that same time. The idea was further explored.

#### **IX. RESPONSE TO LPS OF DIFFERENT TYPE-O IN LATE LPS TOLERANCE.**

Rats were repeatedly primed with one type of LPS and 21 days after the last dose were challenged with the same type or with another O-specific type of LPS (Table 10). The rationale for this experiment was that if late tolerance to LPS was exclusively due to the presence of O-specific anti-LPS antibodies, if tolerance was induced with an LPS of one type of O-specificity, the response to a challenge with another O-specific LPS would be the same in the primed as in the naive animals. Milner did a similar experiment using rabbits and testing for pyrogenic tolerance. In Milner's experiment, rabbits were given single priming doses of endotoxin from

three types of bacteria of different O-specificities and all groups were challenged seven days later with endotoxin from one type. Only those primed homologously were shown to be tolerant (Milner 1973).

In our experiment (Table 10), priming did not confer any significant survival advantage to the post-tolerant rats (G-I and III) over the naive ones (G-V and VII) neither to the group that was challenge with the homologous type of LPS used to prime (G-I) nor to the group challenged with the non-related type of LPS (G-III). We found again that high levels of TNF in naive animals or low levels in tolerant rats were not proportional to the likelihood for survival between the groups injected with 25 mg/kg of LPS and the groups injected with 0.5 mg/kg (Figure 33).

In terms of body weight loss (Figure 36), our results are compatible with Milner's. In naive rats *E. coli* LPS showed a higher potency to induce body weight loss than *S. typhi* LPS. When challenged with *E. coli* LPS, tolerant rats (G-II) lost 4% of body weight by day 2 and 4.5 % by day 3. On the other hand, the naive rats lost a mean of 9.5% by day 2 and 9.8% by day 3. The body wasting effect of *S. typhi* LPS upon late-tolerant or naive animals was not different (Tolerant  $5.7 \pm 1.8\%$  vs Naive  $5.8 \pm 1\%$ ).

The fact that *E. coli* challenged tolerant rats in our experiment produced much lower levels of TNF than the naive counterparts (Figure 34), would seem easily explained by the high levels of anti-*E. coli* LPS measured (Figure 34), but as shown in Figure 35, although anti-*Salmonella* antibodies were barely elevated above control levels in the tolerant rats, TNF production was precluded as well in this group (Figure 33).

These results generate to paradoxical conditions: First, if pre-treated animals have titers of anti-LPS antibodies that were high enough to diminish the body wasting effect and levels of TNF produced, why it did not prevent a lethal outcome? Secondly, why did not the late-tolerant rats challenged with a non-related LPS type produce as much TNF as the naive ones? We propose three alternative explanations:

- 1) The pyrogenic, the body wasting effect, the TNF-inducing capacity and the lethal effects of LPS can be dissociated.

Some evidence supports this idea:

a) In humans, for unknown reasons, despite the administration of equipyrogenic doses of LPS, nausea and emesis are consistently more pronounced with some endotoxins (*E. coli* O127:B8) than with others (*Pseudomonas* sp.) (Greisman 1973).

b) In rabbits, during LPS tolerance, administration of TNF is not lethal but still induces fever which shows that the febrile response (TNF and IL-1 mediated ?) can be dissociated from the lethal response (Fraker 1988; Greisman 1966).

c) The C3H/HeJ mouse is refractory to the toxic effect of LPS but sensitive to toxicity by TNF, nevertheless, LPS tolerance can be induced with sublethal doses of TNF and it confers resistance to lethality from further challenge with higher doses of TNF (Cerami 1985, Socher 1988).

2) The TNF-producing capacity of the cells exposed to LPS is altered for a longer period of time than the 21 days that passed since the last dose, thus the low TNF levels that were obtained might be the result of early LPS tolerance still present but that will eventually vanish allowing TNF levels to be high after challenge with an unrelated LPS.

3) The low amount of cross reacting anti-LPS antibodies that were induced by the *E. coli* LPS (Figure 35) were capable of preventing release of TNF. The cross reacting antibodies could have been generated by common epitopes shared by *E. coli* and *S. typhi* LPS. This could be the case with anti-core or anti-lipid A antibodies where high degree of common antigens are present between different enterobacterial species (Lüderitz 1966). The higher levels of anti-*Salmonella* antibodies in the primed groups could be just an enhanced content of natural antibodies that were amplified as part of the general B cell mitogenic stimuli of LPS.

## **X. INTRAPERITONEAL BACTERIA, TNF LEVELS AND ENDOTOXIN TOLERANCE.**

When it first became evident that ip injection of live bacteria and CLP were not inducing high levels of TNF (Figure 37) different possibilities were invoked

including wrong timing for blood sampling, wrong doses of LPS or bacteria and wrong number of perforations in the CLP model, or other inadverted factors whose randomness might prevent these same results from happening again. The models were improved; the sampling time extended until animals first start to die; the estimated lethality was standardize and adjusted to be fairly similar in the 3 models and the experiment was repeated. Results were almost identical (Figure 38).

New explanations were sought. Some of them had been discussed when dealing with the previous conflicting findings such as the lack of correlation between LPS dose, mortality and TNF levels in the naive animal and the lack of proportion between TNF levels and mortality in naive vs. tolerant rats. Other alternatives were also proposed such as the low amounts of free LPS that might actually be available in the abdominal cavity in this models; the formation of less toxic LPS-HDL complex; different kinetics of TNF production, and others that have also been addressed. Even though any particular one or all of them could have certain degree of participation, most of them could actually lead to the possibility of septic shock developing whithout much participation of TNF or even LPS.

We certainly have arrived to an area plagued with uncertainties. It is likely that LPS is shed from the bacteria *in vivo* as constituents of bacterial membrane fragments. Alternatively disruption of bacterial membranes by plasma or tissues might release LPS from other membrane components, making "free" LPS available. On the other hand, it is also possible that artificial extraction of bacterial membranes with the various procedures in use alters the physical state of the LPS (by removing the lipid moieties from the outer membrane, for example) so that extracted LPS have properties that the native LPS do not.

Evidence has been presented suggesting that during gram negative sepsis LPS-HDL complexes may form as a consequence of interaction between bacteria and plasma (Munford 1982). Mathison and others showed that exposure of LPS to serum or plasma results in formation of LPS-HDL complexes. Difference between the administration of the original LPS preparation vs plasma modified (HDL complexed) LPS include a much lower toxicity and peak TNF levels induced by HDL-LPS and a better D/R relation between HDL-LPS complex dose and peak TNF levels. Maximal peak TNF levels were nevertheless comparable between the

two preparations, provided a higher dose of the HDL-LPS complex was injected (Mathison 1988).

In a report already quoted, the net inflow of endotoxin after caecal perforation never exceeded 300 ng/kg per hour and minimal amounts reached the arterial system (Olofsson 1986), so if as Mathison reports, peak TNF levels induced by HDL-LPS reach the minimal detectable production of TNF and provoked no hypotension after 10  $\mu$ g of HDL-LPS (while TNF production reached maximal capacity with the same amount of non-treated LPS), then the 300 ng/kg per hour are some 30 times under threshold levels for TNF production and hemodynamic consequences.

Even more, the histopathologic and lethal effect of systemic venous injection of endotoxin are abrogated if the same amount of the endotoxin is administered through the intraportal route (Mori 1973), then again, if fair amounts of LPS are drained out of the abdominal cavity through the portal route, the consequences of LPS gaining access to different organs should not be assumed as totally interchangeable.

Our last two experiments show that priming the animals with LPS conferred protection from a lethal challenge with LPS, ip injection of live *E. coli* in BaSO<sub>4</sub> and finally, from caecal ligation and puncture. What we call inducing LPS tolerance in fact is, as described in the review, the activation of most of the body defense capabilities through the provocation of an acute phase response. Energy conserving metabolic resources, endocrine status, functions procuring hydro-electrolytic homeostasis, inflammatory and immune capabilities, hepatic and hematopoietic activities, all have been set for optimal performance through the effect of LPS-induced endogenous mediators (including TNF).

It is also relevant to remember that the agents that have shown to prime mice for increased TNF production (BCG, zymosan, *C. parvum*, etc.) also increase resistance to bacterial infection inducing macrophage activation and proliferation, in spite of causing heightened susceptibility to endotoxin lethality (Green 1977, Benacerraf 1959).

Rothstein & Schreiber propose an interesting explanation. Having shown that TNF causes hemorrhagic necrosis in normal skin, only in conjunction with bacteria or their products, they suggest that this combination may represent a primitive defence reaction against infectious organisms or their products since this response effectively eliminates the infecting organisms and may limit the diffusion of toxic products by cutting off the blood supply to the infected region. In order for this necrotizing response to be protective and not damaging, it must be tightly controlled. Three requirements should be fulfilled to provide the host with significant protection against a damaging, destructive self-reaction. First, since the response lacks a distinction between self and non-self, it must rely on a cell that has been already damaged by the infection as an indication of invasion. Secondly, the response will occur only if the pathogen or its product is present. Thirdly, TNF will cause necrosis of the tissue only if both the other components are present simultaneously. Thus, TNF appears to cause hemorrhagic necrosis and lethal shock only when the other components are also present and, in the absence of infections, TNF may be utilized by the host for other functions without causing injury (Rothstein 1987).

## CONCLUSIONS

Studying a rat model of endotoxin tolerance and two models of intra-peritoneal gram-negative bacterial infections we gathered data that made questionable the direct translocation of the pathophysiology of endotoxin induced shock and the mechanisms involved in sepsis and Multiple System Organ Failure syndrome. The presumption that TNF is "the" mediator of clinical sepsis and MSOF because TNF has seemingly an outstanding role in endotoxin induced shock was particularly challenged. Too many pieces of the puzzle are still poorly understood and such statements are of no service to the understanding of the pathophysiology of sepsis.

We obtained the following conflictive results:

In rats, the early phase of endotoxin tolerance is associated with diminished serum TNF levels after a subsequent challenge with the same or a different type O-specific endotoxin.

In naive rats, there is no correlation between peak TNF serum levels and mortality after an intra-peritoneal injection of different lethal and non-lethal doses of the same type of LPS. The injection of similar doses of low or high toxicity preparations of LPS also induce similar peak TNF serum levels.

In spite of markedly decreased LPS-induced peak TNF serum levels, rats in the late phase of endotoxin tolerance have similar susceptibility to the lethal effects of LPS as the naive animals.

Exposure to LPS and TNF confers a very important survival advantage after a challenge with intra-peritoneal injection of lethal amounts of live *E. coli* in barium sulfate or caecal ligation and puncture.

Lethal challenge with ip live *E. coli* or caecal ligation and puncture are not associated with significant levels of circulating TNF as in the model of pure endotoxin administration.

### FINAL REMARKS

Stephen Gould suggested that nature is not a fully accomplished design, but newly appearing conditions continue to influence its shape and modify its patterns of response (Gould 1980). To what extent are the present technological condition and their effects upon the macro and also the micro environment (the ICU for example) going to inflict selective pressure now that previously lethal pathologies are more and more curable is still a speculative matter.

What is indisputable is that gram-negative bacteria and most probably endotoxin were a factor of evolutionary pressure long before the first proto-gene for cytokine synthesis was around. The inflammatory response and the immune system developed from their beginnings always under the pressure of bacteria and LPS, and under this light the unfolding pattern of host-bacteria interaction should be interpret.



From a practical point of view, our next steps will be to study the behavior of other LPS induced-mediators and other biological effects of endotoxin during early endotoxin tolerance such as PAF, complement system activation, IL-1, IL-6 and thromboxanes.

On the long run the challenge is to understand what to be honest we barely perceive behind the fog.

*... I am better off than he is, for he knows nothing and thinks he knows; I neither know nor think I know. In this latter particular, then, I seem to have slightly the advantage over him....Socrates*

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