

Childhood Obesity and Nutrition & Diabetes and Obesity

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Previous reports suggested that adipose tissue macrophages are involved in maintaining insulin sensitivity of adipocytes along with improvement in metabolic genes. Nonetheless, it is largely unknown how depletion of M2-like macrophages regulates insulin sensitivity and adipocyte progenitor (AP) proliferation. To understand the role of M2-like macrophages in white adipose tissue (WAT), we generated CD206^{DTR} mice based on transgenic expression of diphtheria toxin receptor under the control of the CD206(+) promoter to specifically deplete CD206 M2-like macrophages. Partial depletion of CD206 M2-like macrophages resulted in the generation of smaller adipocytes, upregulated expression of metabolically favorable genes and enhanced insulin sensitivity in both chow and high-fat diet-fed CD206-reduced mice. In vivo and in vitro studies revealed that Tgf 1, abundantly expressed in CD206 M2-like macrophages, regulate AP differentiation and proliferation. Flow cytometry analysis revealed that the number of APs was increased and cyclin gene expression levels in the AP fraction were up-regulated. To validate this hypothesis, we generated genetically engineered mice in which CD206 specific Tgf 1 was knocked out after tamoxifen treatment. Increased number of APs and smaller adipocytes were observed in the CD206 specific Tgf 1 knockout mice, suggesting that CD206 cell-specific deletion of Tgf 1 resulted in the enhanced proliferation of APs. Previous studies had shown that type 2 cytokines and M2 macrophages induce cold-induced browning in inguinal WAT (ingWAT) by producing catecholamines. Exactly how the conditional and partial depletion of CD206 M2-like macrophages regulates the cold-induced browning of ingWAT, however, remains unknown. We also examined the role of CD206 M2-like macrophages in the cold-induced browning of WAT and found that partial depletion of CD206 M2-like macrophages caused an increase in the number of beige progenitors and also enhanced their proliferation in ingWAT in response to cold. Thus, we concluded that CD206 M2-like macrophages inhibit the proliferation of white and beige progenitors.

Keywords: Adipocyte progenitors, adipose tissue macrophages, beige adipocyte, insulin sensitivity.