AGE- AND DOSE-RELATED ALTERATION OF IN VITRO MIXED LYMPHOCYTE CULTURE RESPONSE OF BLOOD LYMPHOCYTES FROM A-BOMB SURVIVORS

原爆被爆者の血液リンパ球の試験管内リンパ球混合培養反応の 年齢及び被曝線量による変化

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SUMMARY

The responsiveness of peripheral blood lymphocytes to allogenic antigens in mixed lymphocyte culture (MLC) was measured in 139 atomic bomb survivors. The study revealed a significant decrease in MLC with increasing dose of previous radiation exposure. This decline was remarkable in the survivors who were older than 15 at the time of the bomb (ATB).

The results suggest a possible relationship between the recovery of T-cell-related function and the thymic function which processes mature T-cells for the immune system. Thus it may be that, in the advanced age ATB group, the thymus function has started to involute allowing less recovery of T-cell function compared to young survivors who have adequate processing T-cell activity.

INTRODUCTION

It is well known that ionizing radiation can cause delayed carcinogenic effects, but much remains to be elucidated regarding its mechanism. Among A-bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the incidence of leukemia increased proportionally to the radiation exposure dose, and even at present, 40

要約

被爆者139名の末梢血リンパ球のアロ抗原に対する 反応性をリンパ球混合培養(MLC)で測定した.原爆 被爆者の MLC 反応性は被曝線量が増加するにつれ て有意に減少した.そしてこの MLC 反応性の線量 依存性の減少は,被爆時年齢が15歳以上の被爆者に おいて顕著であった.

この結果から、T細胞に関連した免疫機能の回復と 免疫系に成熟T細胞を補給する器官である胸腺の 機能との関係の可能性が示唆された. すなわち、被爆 時に高年齢であった被爆者においては、胸腺の機能 が既に退縮し始めているので、T細胞機能の回復が T細胞を十分補給できる若年時被爆者のそれに比べ て低下しているのではないかと考えられた.

緒言

電離放射線の遅発性発癌効果はよく知られているが、 その機序に関して解明すべきことが依然多く残っている. 広島・長崎の原爆被爆者において、白血病の 発生率は被曝線量に比例して増加し、被爆後40年 years after the A-bomb explosions, the risk of death due to various solid tumors has been shown to be increasing. Many mechanisms may be operative in causing the elevated cancer incidence among A-bomb survivors. For example, there is a possibility that somatic cells, mutated by A-bomb radiation, might give rise to cancer following a latent period. Recently, much attention has been focused on the role of activation or mutation of oncogenes in carcinogenesis. ²

On the other hand, the immune system functions to maintain in vivo homeostasis by reacting with and eliminating not only foreign antigens invading the body but also variant substances and cells occurring in the body. Dysfunction of this system, therefore, will yield increases in infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases, allergies, and cancers.

In a previous study reactivity of lymphocytes to phytohemagglutinin (PHA), a nonspecific lymphocyte mitogen, was measured as a general index of immune response. In that study, the response of A-bomb survivors exposed to more than 200 rad decreased with age more rapidly than the response of the controls (those exposed to less than 1 rad).³

The MLC technique has also been used as an important tool for measuring the level of cellular immunity in vitro. 4-6 Diseases or conditions, in which a decreased response in the MLC has been observed, include primary immunodeficiencies such as severe combined immunodeficiency, ataxia telangiectasia, and secondary immunodeficiencies observed in irradiated patients or patients with malignant tumors. 7,8 The MLC test has also been employed for examination of cellular immunity against autologous tumors. 9

This report describes the results of MLC tests conducted as part of a series of studies on A-bomb survivors, to reconfirm and determine whether the previous radiation exposure had altered the immune response, and whether variation in age ATB influenced the usual age-related decline in immune function.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Survivors. The examinees of the present study were Adult Health Study (AHS) participants who visited RERF to undergo periodic health examina-

たった現在でさえも,様々な固型腫瘍による死亡のリスクが増大していることが証明されている.1 被爆者における癌発生率の増加には,多くの機序が作用している可能性がある.例えば,原爆放射線により突然変異を起こした体細胞は,一定の潜伏期の後に癌を引き起こす可能性がある.最近,発癌における癌遺伝子の活性化又は突然変異が大きく注目されている.2

他方,免疫系は体内に侵入する外来抗原のみならず 体内で発生する変異物質及び細胞に反応し,それら を排除することによって生体内の恒常性を維持して いる.したがって,この免疫系の機能不全により感染 性疾患,自己免疫疾患,アレルギー及び癌が増加 するであろう.

以前の調査で免疫反応の一般的指標として、非特異的リンパ球分裂促進因子であるフィトへマグルチニン(PHA)に対するリンパ球の反応性を測定した。その調査で、200rad以上の線量に被曝した被爆者の反応は対照者(1rad以下の線量に被曝した者)の反応よりも加齢に伴い急速に減少していることがわかった。3

MLC 技法は、試験管内の細胞性免疫能のレベルを 測定する重要な手段としても用いられてきた.4-6 MLC 反応性の減少が観察された疾患又は状態には、 重度の複合性免疫不全症や毛細血管拡張性運動失調 症のような原発性免疫不全症及び放射線を照射され た患者又は悪性腫瘍患者にみられる続発性免疫不全 症がある.^{7,8} MLC 検査は自己由来腫瘍に対する細胞 性免疫の検査にも使用されてきた.9

本報では、過去の放射線被曝が免疫反応に変化を もたらしたか否か、また被爆時年齢の差異が年齢に 関連した通常の免疫機能低下に影響を及ぼしたか 否かを再確認及び決定するために、原爆被爆者の 一連の調査の一環として行った MLC 検査の結果を 記述する.

材料及び方法

被爆者. 本調査の被検者は,1984年12月から1985年 7月までの間の金曜日に放影研に来所し,定期検診 tion on Fridays between December 1984 and July 1985. At least one or more survivors who were exposed to less than 1 rad (control group) and more than 1 rad (exposed group) were randomly selected on every examination day. Of the 153 individuals selected, 139 survivors (53 in the contorl group and 86 in the exposed group) were analyzed using the MLC test. Table 1 shows the T65D dosimetry 10 and age composition of these participants.

を受けた成人健康調査対象者である。各検診日ごとに、1rad以下(対照群)及び1rad以上(被爆群)に被曝した少なくとも1人又はそれ以上の被爆者を任意に抽出した。抽出した153人のうち139人の対象者(対照群53人、被爆群86人)をMLC検査を用いて分析した。表1は、これらの対象者のT65D線量推定値10及び年齢構成を示している。

TABLE 1 DISTRIBUTION OF INDIVIDUALS BY AGE AND RADIATION DOSE IN THE TEST OF MIXED LYMPHOCYTE CULTURE RESPONSE

表 1	リンパ球混合	培養反応検査にお	ける対象者分布:	年齢及び放射線量別
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	Age at Test (mean)			
T65 Dose (mean)	<55 (48.6 ± 5.2)	55-<70 (61.0 ± 4.5)	70+ (77.3 ± 5.4)	Total
0 rad (0)	14	28	11	53
1 - < 10 (5.0 ± 2.6)	7	9	3	19
$10 - < 75$ (30.4 ± 17.1)	11	11	11	33
$75 - < 150$ (106.7 ± 20.1)	3	9	5	17
$150+$ (302.9 ± 146.7)	7	4	6	17
Total	42	61	36	139

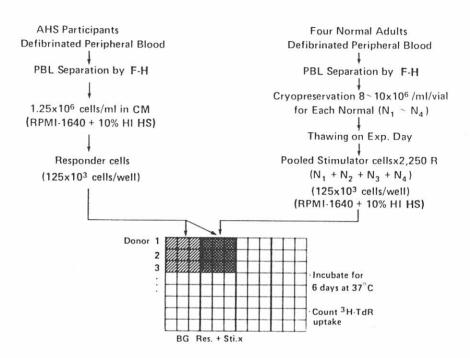
Methods. Determination of mixed lymphocyte responsiveness (Figure 1) was performed according to a previously reported method^{5,11} that is described below:

Preparation of responder lymphocytes. Peripheral blood of AHS participants was defibrinated by glass beads and diluted with an equal volume of phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and centrifuged over a Ficoll-Hypaque (F-H) gradient (specific gravity: 1.077 ± 0.001). 6,12 The mononuclear cells of the interface were collected and washed three times in Earle's balanced salt solution (EBSS). The cells were suspended in culture medium (CM: RPMI-

方法. 以前に報告された方法^{5,11} に従って、混合リンパ球の反応性の測定(図1)を行った. 以下に記述する.

反応リンパ球の作成.成人健康調査対象者の未梢血をガラスビーズで脱フィブリン化し,同量のリン酸緩衝生理食塩水(PBS)で希釈し,Ficoll-Hypaque(F-H)勾配上(比重:1.077±0.001)で遠心分離した.6,12 界面の単核細胞を収集し,Earle 平衡食塩水(EBSS)で3回洗浄した.この細胞を培養液(CM:

FIGURE 1 METHODS USED FOR STUDY OF MIXED LYMPHOCYTE CULTURE RESPONSE 図 1 リンパ球混合培養反応検査に用いた方法



1640 + 10% heat-inactivated (HI) human AB type fresh serum (HS) + $100 \,\mu$ /ml streptomycin + $100 \,\mu$ ml penicillin + $2 \,\mathrm{mM}$ L-glutamine + $4 \,\mathrm{mM}$ HEPES + 0.05% NaHCO₃) and used for the assays.

Preparation of stimulator cells. F-H-purified peripheral blood lymphocyte from four normal volunteers were aliquoted and cryopreserved¹³ to provide a standard source of stimulator cells for the one-way MLC assay. These cells were irradiated with 2,250 rad of gamma rays (⁶⁰Co) at 4 °C and pooled before use in the assay.

Mixed lymphocyte culture. MLC assays were performed by mixing 125×10^3 responder lymphocytes and 125×10^3 pooled, irradiated stimulator lymphocytes in triplicate on microtest plates with flat-bottomed wells at a final volume of 0.2 ml of CM. Cultures were incubated at 37 °C in a 5% CO₂-air incubator for six days. For the background reactions of the MLC assay, responder lymphocytes were incubated alone or with autologous

RPMI-1640 + 10%熱処理(HI)ヒト AB 型新鮮血清(HS)+100 μg/ml ストレプトマイシン+100 units/ml ペニシリン+2 mM L-グルタミン+4 mM HEPES+0.05% NaHCO₃)に浮遊させ測定に用いた.

刺激細胞の作成. 健常な自発的協力者 4 人から得た F-H 精製末梢血リンパ球を,一方向 MLC 測定用の標準刺激細胞として用いるため,試験管に分注して凍結保存した. 13 測定で使用する前に $4^{\circ}C$ で 2,250 rad のガンマ線 (^{60}Co) をこれらの細胞に照射し,これをプールした.

混合リンパ球培養. 125×10^3 個の反応リンパ球と 125×10^3 個のプールした照射刺激リンパ球を平底 well のマイクロテストプレート中で最終容量 0.2ml の培養液で混合培養し、3 重複標本を作成してそれ ぞれに MLC 測定を行った、培養標本を 5% CO₂-空気培養器で 6 日間 37% C でインキュベートした。 MLC 測定のバックグラウンド反応を見るために、反応 リンパ球のみ又は自己由来の照射 $(2,250 \, {\rm rad})$ リンパ球

irradiated (2,250 rad) lymphocytes. Eighteen hours before termination of the culture, 0.5 μ Ci of [³H]-thymidine ([³H]-TdR) was added to each well. Cultured cells were aspirated on to a glass fiber filter and the [³H]-TdR incorporated by responder lymphocytes was measured by a liquid scintillation counter as an index of DNA synthesis. The mean of counts per minute (cpm) were determined for the three wells, and the net cpm for the assay was taken as a measure of MLC responsiveness of the individuals studied.

Method of analysis. The focus of this study was to determine any effect which radiation exposure or aging might have had upon the MLC response. The net cpm (cpm adjusted for background) served as the measure of an individual's MLC response, and the statistical analyses were done on the logarithm of this response. As is common in such studies, the general levels of these MLC-response values vary substantially between the days on which analyses are made, due to variation in conditions of storage. preparation, culturing, and so forth. This variation is removed from the comparisons in regard to dose and age by using regression models of the general form, log(MLC response) = day effect + dose and age effects + error. Different versions of the model for dose and age effects are required for focusing on various specific inferences, and these are given in detail in the figure captions. This type of analysis is similar in principle to analyzing the dose and age effects in terms of adjusted MLC responses. these being the ratios of individual MLC responses to the mean MLC response for the day. main advantage of the regression approach is that it accounts for the lack of "balance" between days of the doses and ages of the persons available.

This logarithmic type of analysis also amounts to examining relative changes in MLC response in regard to dose and age. By using antilogarithms of estimated effects, results are presented in terms of relative changes in MLC response associated with dose and age. This involves some arbitrary, but unimportant, choice of a reference group; for example in Table 2 the MLC values are given relative to those of the unexposed and less than 55 years of age-group. The reference groups for the figures are given in the captions. The ratios of MLC responses to some reference group displayed in the results are referred to as "relative MLC responses".

とともにインキュベートした。培養終了18時間前に $[^3H]$ -チミジン($[^3H]$ -TdR) 0.5μ Ci を各well に添加した。培養細胞をガラス繊維フィルター上に取り出し、反応リンパ球が取り込んだ $[^3H]$ -TdRをDNA合成の指標として液体シンチレーション計数器で測定した。三つのwellの毎分当たりの放射能カウント(cpm)の平均値を決定し、測定用の純cpmを調査対象者のMLC 反応性の尺度として利用した。

解析方法. 本調査の目的は、放射線被曝又は加齢が MLC 反応性に及ぼす影響を決定することであった. 純 cpm (バックグラウンドを調整した cpm)を対象者 の MLC 反応性の尺度として、この反応の対数の統計 的解析を行った, このような調査ではよくあること だが、これらの MLC 反応値の全体的なレベルは標本 の保存, 作成, 培養などの条件に差があるため検査 実施日間で大きく異なる. log(MLC 反応) = 日効果+ 線量及び年齢効果+誤差の一般形回帰モデルを用い て、線量及び年齢の比較からこのような差を除去 する. 様々な特定の推論について述べるには、線量 及び年齢効果に関する異なる型のモデルが必要で あり, 各図のキャプションでそれらを詳細に示し た. この種の解析は原則として, ある検査日の各対象 者の MLC 反応と平均 MLC 反応の比である調整 MLC 反応に関する線量及び年齢効果の解析と同一で ある. 回帰解析法の主な利点は, 調査対象者の線量 及び年齢の検査日間の「差」をつぐなうことである.

この対数型解析では、線量及び年齢に関連した MLC 反応の相対的変化を調べることにもなる。推定効果の真数を用いて、線量及び年齢と関連のある MLC 反応の相対的変化に関する結果を示している。このために参考群を抽出しているが、これは任意であり重要ではない。例えば、表2において、被曝していない55歳以下の年齢群の対象者の MLC 反応値に対する相対的な値を示している。各図では参考群をキャプションに示した。結果の項に示す参考群 に対する MLC 反応の比は「相対的 MLC 反応値」と呼ぶ。

RESULTS

The distribution of the 139 study participants in terms of age and A-bomb radiation exposure groups is given in Table 1. These groupings are employed in Figures 2 through 5 to illustrate the major findings. The primary statistical analysis of these data employed the age at time of examination (ATE) and T65D dosimetry¹⁰ in an attempt to explain some of the variation in the logarithm of MLC responses.

MLC Response by Exposure Dose

The overall relationship between MLC responsiveness and the exposure dose (Figure 2) indicates a significant (p<0.02) decrease in the logarithm of MLC response by 10% per 100 rad increase of exposure.

MLC Response by Age ATE

Figure 3 shows the logarithm of the MLC response as a function of mean age (ATE and ATB). From this figure, it can be seen that the MLC responses decreased about 2.5% per 10 years of age ATE. This rate of decrease is not statistically significant.

The statistical analysis indicated a notewhorthy, although not significant, difference in the age response within the dose groups. This is illustrated in Figure 4 in which the trend of the logarithm of the MLC response is plotted against age in the control group and the exposed group (more than 75 rad).

An alternative way of expressing the age-dose interaction is to consider the behavior of the dose response within age-groups. It has been reported that human thymus weight reaches its peak at around 15 years of age. It then gradually involutes, concomitant with atrophy and replacement with fat tissues, 14,15 and the serum level and activities of thymic hormones, such as "facteur thymique serique" (FTS) decrease with age. 16 Therefore, it is of interest to compare the dose response of the MLC response for individuals of less than 15 age ATB (<55 age ATE) with individuals greater than 15 age ATB. The means and 95% confidence limits of the logarithm of the relative MLC response are given in Table 2 and plotted in Figure 5. When examined separately there was no significant decrease in MLC response with dose in the <15 age ATB group (p=0.350) but a significant decrease (p=0.012) is observed in the >15 age ATB group.

結 果

調査対象者139人の年齢群及び原爆放射線被曝群別分布を表1に示す。これらの分類を図2~5に使用し、主要所見を示す。これらのデータの主要な統計的解析では、MLC 反応の対数の差を説明するために検査時年齢及びT65D線量推定値10を用いた。

被曝線量別 MLC 反応

MLC 反応性と被曝線量の総合的な関係(図 2)を みると、MLC 反応の対数は線量が 100rad 増加する ごとに10%分有意に (p<0.02)減少している.

検査時年齢別 MLC 反応

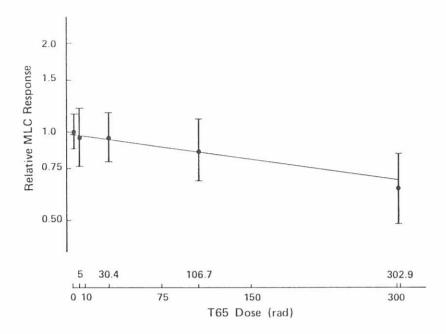
図3は、平均年齢(検査時年齢及び原爆時年齢)の 関数としてのMLC 反応対数を示している。この図 からMLC 反応は検査時年齢10歳当たり約2.5%減少 したことがわかる。この減少率は統計的に有意で はない。

統計的解析により、線量群内の年齢反応に有意ではないが顕著な差があることがわかった。このことを、対照群及び被爆群(75rad 以上)における MLC 反応の対数の傾向を年齢に対してプロットして図 4 に示した。

年齢と線量の相互作用を示す別の方法は、年齢群内で線量反応の性状を考慮することである。ヒトの胸腺の重量は15歳ごろピークに達することが報告されている。その後、胸腺は萎縮し脂肪組織に取って代わるにつれ漸次退縮し、14.15 血清値及び"facteurthymique serique"(FTS)のような胸腺ホルモンの活性は加齢とともに減少する.16 したがって、被爆時15歳以下(検査時55歳以下)の対象者のMLC反応の線量反応を被爆時15歳以上の対象者と比較することは興味深い。相対的MLC反応の対数の平均値及び95%信頼限界を表2に示し、図5においてプロットしている。別個に検討すると、被爆時年齢が15歳以下の群では線量に伴うMLC反応の有意な減少はみられなかったが(p=0.350)、15歳以上の群では有意な減少(p=0.012)がみられた。

FIGURE 2 EFFECT OF RADIATION DOSE ON MIXED LYMPHOCYTE CULTURE RESPONSE ESTIMATES AND 95% CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

図2 リンパ球混合培養反応に及ぼす放射線量効果及び95%信頼区間



The least squares estimates and 95% confidence intervals of the contrasts, "dose group(j) — dose group(1)", were calculated for the model;

次のモデルについて「線量群(j) ー線量群(1)」の差異の最小自乗推定値及び95%信頼区間を算出した;

$$log(net\ MLC\ response)_{ij} = overall\ mean\ +\ day(i)\ +\ dose\ group(j)\ .$$

The dose groups were as given in Table 1, i.e., dose group(1) = 0 rad, dose group(2) = 1-10 rad, etc. These contrasts were converted to "relative MLC response" by taking the antilog. Thus relative MLC response in this figure is an estimate of the percent change in MLC response relative to the control dose, T65 dose = 0. The slope is the least squares estimate for the dose term, b, in the model;

線量 群は線量群(1)=0 rad,線量群(2)=1 -10rad 等,表 1 の記述どおり、これらの差異は真数をとって「相対的 MLC 反応値」に変換した、したがって本図の相対的 MLC 反応値は、対照線量 T65 線量=0 に対する MLC 反応の百分率変化の推定値である。勾配は次のモデルの線量の項 b の最小自乗推定値である。

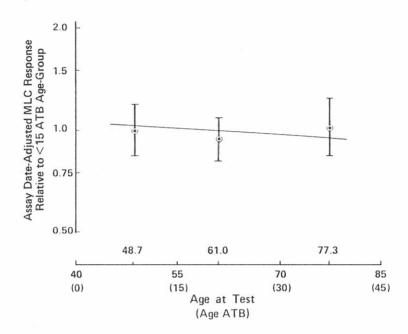
 $log(net MLC response)_{ij} = overall mean + day(i) + a*age(j) + b*dose(j)$.

Here j indexes the j-th AHS participant on day(i).

この場合, j は i 日の j 番目の成人健康調査被検者を意味する.

FIGURE 3 AGE EFFECTS ON MIXED LYMPHOCYTE CULTURE RESPONSE ESTIMATES AND 95% CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

図3 リンパ球混合培養反応に及ぼす年齢効果及び95%信頼区間



The least squares estimates and 95% confidence intervals of the contrasts, "age-group(j) — age-group(1)", were calculated for the model;

次のモデルについて「年齢群(j)-年齢群(l)」の差異の最小自乗推定値及び95%信頼区間を算出した;

$$log(net \ MLC \ response)_{ij} = overall \ mean + day(i) + age-group(j)$$
.

The age-groups were as given in Table 1. These contrasts were converted to "relative MLC response" by taking the antilog. Thus relative MLC response in this figure is an estimate of the percent change in MLC response relative to the <15 ATB age-group. The slope is the least squres estimate for the age term, a, in the model;

年齢群は表1の記述どおりである。これらの差異は真数をとって「相対的 MLC 反応値」に変換した。したがって本図の相対的 MLC 反応値は被爆時年齢15歳以下の群に対する MLC 反応の百分率変化の推定値である。勾配は次のモデルの年齢の項 a の最小自乗推定値である;

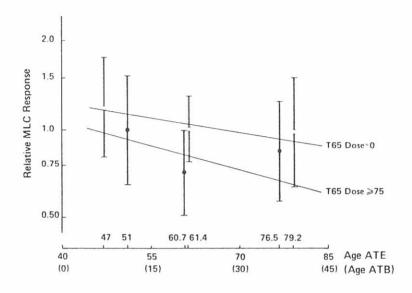
$$log(net MLC response)_{ij} = overall mean + day(i) + a * age(j) + b * dose(j)$$
.

Here j indexes the j-th AHS participant on day(i).

この場合 j は i 日の j 番目の成人健康調査被検者を意味する.

FIGURE 4 EFFECT OF AGE ON MIXED LYMPHOCYTE CULTURE RESPONSE BY RADIATION DOSE ESTIMATES AND 95% CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

図 4 リンパ球混合培養反応に及ぼす推定放射線量別年齢効果及び95%信頼区間



Test of regression coefficient: 0 rad P=0.20 ≥75 rad P=0.08

The least squares estimates and 95% confidence intervals of the contrasts, "age * dose group(j) — age * dose group(reference)", were calculated for the model;

次のモデルについて「年齢*線量群(j)-年齢*線量群(参考)」の差異の最小自乗推定値及び95%信頼区間を算出した;

log(net MLC response);; = overall mean + day(i) + age * dose group(j).

The age-groups were as given in Table 1. Only two dose groups were used, T65 dose = 0 and T65 dose \geq 75". These contrasts were converted to "relative MLC response" by taking the antilog with the reference group being the "<15 ATB and T65 dose \geq 75" group. Thus relative MLC response in this figure is an estimate of the percent change in MLC response relative to the reference group. The slope is the least squares estimate for the age term, a(dose group), in the model;

年齢群は表 1 の記述どおりである。 T65 線量 = 0 及び T65 線量 ≥ 75 rad の二つの線量 群のみ使用した。参考群を「被爆時年齢 15歳以下で T65 線量が 75 rad 以上」の群として,真数をとって,これらの差異を「相対的 MLC 反応値」に変換した。したがって,本図の相対的 MLC 反応値は参考 群に対する MLC 反応の百分率変化の推定値である。 勾配は次のモデルの年齢の項 a (線量群)の最小自乗推定値である;

log(net MLC response); = overall mean + day(i) + a(dose group) * age(j).

Here j indexes the j-th AHS participant on day(i).

この場合, jはi日のj番目の成人健康調査被検者を意味する.

TABLE 2 EFFECT OF RADIATION DOSE ON MIXED LYMPHOCYTE CULTURE RESPONSE (R. MLC) BY AGE

表 2	リンパ球混	合培養反応に及	ぼす放射線量効果	(R. MLC): 年齡別

Age-	T65D Group (rad)					
Group (years)		0	1-<10	10-<75	75-<150	150+
<15	Dose Ave.	0	5.9	36.4	105	323
	N =	14	7	11	3	7
	*R. MLC	1.00 ± 0.14	0.84 ± 0.20	0.75 ± 0.15	1.27 ± 0.31	0.66 ± 0.20
15+	Dose Ave.	0	4.5	27.4	107.1	289
	N =	39	12	22	14	10
	*R. MLC	0.89 ± 0.08	0.92 ± 0.15	0.98 ± 0.11	0.73 ± 0.13	0.58 ± 0.16

^{*}Least squares means after adjusting for day effects. 日効果調整後の最小自乗平均値.

DISCUSSION

Present results show that there is a dose-related decrease of MLC response in individuals who were exposed to radiation when they were more than 15 years of age ATB. There is no evidence to support a dose-related decline in individuals who were exposed at a younger age. The statistical strength of this conclusion depends upon a few individuals with a decreased MLC response. This can be seen in Figure 5 where 10 individuals, having high radiation exposure and being over 55 of age ATE are largely responsible for this conclusion. A previous study conducted 10 years ago using a different cohort, revealed a significant decrease of T-cell responsiveness to PHA as a function of age.3 The similarity to the present study was that the heavily exposed group (200+rad) showed an accelerated decline of the responsiveness with age. However, the heavily exposed people at the younger ages did not show any differences compared to the controls. In addition, among T-cell subsets identified by our recent study, the number of Leu 1⁺ (CD5⁺) cells from individuals in the exposed group (100+rad at 30+ years of age ATB) was significantly lower than that in the Orad group of the same age. No differences have been detected among the individuals who were less than 15 years of age ATB.17

The decrease in number and function of T-cells in the advanced age-group suggests an association between thymic function and the recovery of immune cells from radiation damage. In humans, it is

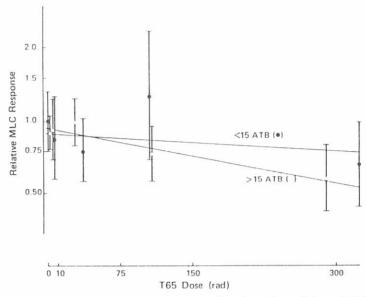
考察

今回の研究結果から、被爆時15歳以上であった対象 者は線量に関連した MLC 反応の減少を示すことが わかる. 15歳よりも若年で被爆した対象者において は、線量に関連して MLC 反応が減少する証拠は なかった. この結論の統計的有効性は、MLC 反応の 低下がみられた数人の対象者に依存している. 図5 に示すとおり、高線量に被曝し、検査時55歳以上で あった10人の対象者がこの結論を得た主な根拠で ある、異なるコホートを用いて行った10年前の研究 では、T細胞のPHA に対する反応性が年齢の関数 として有意に減少することが示された.3 今回の研究 との類似点は、高線量被曝群(200+rad)では加齢 とともに PHA に対する反応性が顕著に低下したこと であった. しかし, 若年時に高線量に被曝した人に は,対照者と比較して差異はなかった. 更に,最近 の研究で確認されたT細胞サブセットにおいては, 被爆群(被爆時30歳以上で被曝線量が100+rad)の 対象者の Leu 1+(CD5+)細胞数は同年齢の 0rad 群 の対象者の細胞数よりも有意に少なかった. 被爆時年齢 が15歳以下の対象者では差異は認められなかった。17

高齢者群のT細胞数の減少及び機能の低下は,胸腺機能と免疫細胞の放射線損傷からの回復との間に関連があることを示唆している. ヒトにおいて,胸腺

FIGURE 5 DOSE RESPONSE OF MIXED LYMPHOCYTE CULTURE RESPONSE BY AGE (ATB) ESTIMATES OF RELATIVE MLC RESPONSE AND 95% CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

図 5 リンパ球混合培養相対反応の推定年齢(被爆時年齢)別 MLC 反応の 線量反応及び95%信頼区間



Test of regression coefficient: <15 ATB P=0.350 >15 ATB P=0.012

The least squares estimates and 95% confidence intervals of the contrasts, "age * dose group(j) — age * dose group(reference)", were calculated for the model;

次のモデルについて「年齢*線量群(j)-年齢*線量群(参考)」の差異の最小自乗推定値及び95%信頼区間を算出した;

log(net MLC response); = overall mean + day(i) + age * dose group(j).

The dose groups were as given in Table 1. Only two age-groups were used, <15 ATB and >15 ATB. These contrasts were converted to "relative MLC response" by taking the antilog with the reference group being the "<15 ATB and T65 dose = 0" group. Thus relative MLC response in this figure is an estimate of the percent change in MLC response relative to the reference group. The slope is the least squares estimate for the dose term, b(age-group), in the model;

線量群は表1の記述どおりである. 被爆時年齢15歳以下及び15歳以上の二つの年齢群のみ使用した. 参考群を「被爆時年齢15歳以下, T65線量=0」群として, 真数をとって, これらの差異を「相対的 MLC 反応値」に変換した. したがって, 本図の相対的 MLC 反応値は参考群に対する MLC 反応の百分率変化の推定値である. 勾配は次のモデルの線量の項b (年齢群)の最小自乗推定値である;

log(net MLC response); = overall mean + day(i) + b(age-group) * dose(j)

Here j indexes the j-th AHS participant on day(i).

この場合, jはi日のj番目の成人健康調査被検者を意味する.

known that the thymic T-cell-inducing function is resistant to radiation exposure, and that its weight and possibly its function declines around 15 years of age. 14,15 Therefore, the present results suggest that; 1) following exposure to relatively high doses of A-bomb radiation, mature lymphocytes are damaged and are decreased in its number, 2) proliferation and differentiation of precursor cells occurs to replenish mature lymphocytes. In individuals who were young ATB, the process of differentiation and maturation of T-cells in the thymus appears to be almost normal despite radiation exposure, while, the same process appears to have been impaired in the survivors of advanced age owing, perhaps, to involution of the thymus, and 3) aging of the immune system in which T-cells are involved is accelerated in the older survivors. Hirokawa and Sado¹⁸ reported that, in mice given homologous bone marrow transplantation after whole-body irradiation (1,000 rad), the reactivity of T-cells from adult mice to PHA was lower compared to that of nontreated mice of the same age. In contrast, this difference was hardly observable at all in newborn mice which received transplantation. Further, a decline of T-cell function was not observed after local in vivo irradiation of the mouse thymus following bone marrow transplantation. This observation indicates that the T-cell-inducing activity of thymic epithelial cells is highly radioresistant. results support our view that, in older survivors of A-bomb radiation, the phenomenon of accelerated aging of T-cell-related immune function is mainly attributable to age-related thymic hypofunction at the time of the radiation exposure.

It has been difficult to identify the type of lymphocytes responsible for alterations in immune function, beause the immune system functions through interactions of various types of immunocompetent cells. In recent years, however, the development of the limiting dilution assay19-22 and a series of monoclonal antibodies specific to cell surface antigens of lymphocyte subpopulations, has made it possible to examine in more detail the immunology alteration of these immunocompetent cells among A-bomb survivors. Although there are still many unsolved problems regarding the relationship between a decrease in a specific immunologic function and various diseases such as cancer, clinical followup, as well as additional new immunologic examinations, may provide valuable information in the future to link the defect of specific immune function and the onset of certain diseases.

のT細胞誘発機能は放射線抵抗性があること, また 胸腺の重量及び恐らく機能も15歳ごろに低下する ことが知られている.14,15 したがって今回の研究結果 は,1)比較的高線量の原爆放射線に被曝した後は 成熟リンパ球は損傷を受け、その数は減少すること、 2) 前駆細胞の増殖及び分化が起こり、成熟リンパ 球を補充することを示唆している. 被爆時若年で あった対象者では、胸腺におけるT細胞の分化及び 成熟の過程は放射線被曝にもかかわらずほぼ正常で あるが、高齢被爆者では恐らく胸腺の退縮により、 この分化・成熟過程が損なわれ、また3) T細胞が関与 している免疫系の加齢が進むと思われる。Hirokawa 及び Sado 18 は、全身 X 線照射 (1,000 rad) 後、骨髄の 同種移植を行ったマウスでは,成人マウスT細胞の PHA に対する反応性は同年齢の治療を受けていない マウスと比べると低いことを報告した. これとは対照 的に,移植を受けた出生直後のマウスではこの差は 全く観察されなかった. 更に骨髄移植の後, マウス の胸腺の局所生体照射の後では, T細胞機能の低下 は観察されなかった. この観察は、胸腺上皮細胞の T細胞分化活性は, 高い放射線抵抗性をもつことを 示している. これらの結果は、高齢の原爆被爆者に おけるT細胞関連の免疫機能の加齢促進現象の主な 原因は,放射線被曝時の年齢に関連した胸腺の機能 低下であるという我々の見解を支持している.

免疫系は様々な種類の免疫担当細胞の相互作用により機能しているために、免疫機能変化をもたらすのはどのリンパ球かを確認することは困難であった。しかし近年、限界希釈測定法19-22 の開発及びリンパ球亜集団の細胞表面抗原に特異的な一連のモノクローナル抗体の産生によって、被爆者の免疫担当細胞の免疫変化を更に詳細に調べることが可能となった。特定の免疫機能の低下と癌などの様々な疾患との関係に関しては依然未解決の問題が多くあるが、臨床的に疾患の追跡調査及び更に新しい免疫検査を行うことによって、特定免疫能の欠損と一定疾患の発生とを関連づける貴重な情報が将来得られるかもしれない。

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