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PHARMACEUTICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

UNIT 3

TOPIC :

- Types of immunity- humoral immunity, cellular immunity
- a) Structure of Immunoglobulins



Immunity

- Immunity is the ability of the body to recognize, resist, and destroy harmful substances such as bacteria, viruses, toxins, and parasites.
- These harmful substances are called antigens.
- The body protects itself through the immune system.
- The branch of science that deals with the study of the immune system is called Immunology.

Organs of Immune System

- Bone marrow
- Thymus
- Spleen
- Lymph nodes

Cells of Immune System

- Monocytes
- Macrophages
- Mast cells
- Dendritic cells
- Natural Killer (NK) cells
- Neutrophils
- Eosinophils
- Basophils
- T-lymphocytes
- B-lymphocytes



Types of Immunity

1. Innate Immunity
2. Acquired (Adaptive) Immunity

1. Innate Immunity

- Innate immunity is the natural defense system present from birth that provides immediate protection against pathogens.

Characteristics

- Present from birth
- Acts immediately
- Non-specific
- No immunological memory
- First line of defense

Components of Innate Immunity

1. Physical Barriers

These prevent the entry of pathogens into the body.

- **Skin** – Tough protective barrier
- **Mucus** – Traps microbes
- **Cilia** – Remove microbes from respiratory tract
- **Tears and Saliva** – Contain lysozyme enzyme
- **Stomach Acid (HCl)** – Kills pathogens

2. Chemical Barriers

Chemical substances that destroy pathogens.

- **Lysozyme** – Breaks bacterial cell wall
- **Acidic pH** – Present in skin and stomach
- **Interferons** – Prevent viral infection
- **Complement Proteins** – Destroy microbes

3. Cellular Components

Cell	Main Function
Neutrophils	First cells to arrive, perform phagocytosis
Macrophages	Engulf pathogens and initiate inflammation
Dendritic Cells	Present antigens to T-cells
NK Cells	Kill virus-infected and tumor cells
Mast Cells	Release histamine during inflammation
Basophils	Involved in allergic reactions
Eosinophils	Destroy parasites

Mechanism of Innate Immunity

Step 1: Pathogen Entry

Pathogens enter the body through skin or mucosal surfaces.

Step 2: Recognition

Pattern Recognition Receptors (PRRs) identify Pathogen-Associated Molecular Patterns (PAMPs).

Step 3: Early Cellular Response

- Neutrophils → Phagocytosis
- Macrophages → Release cytokines
- Mast cells → Release histamine

Step 4: Inflammation

Produces:

- Redness (Rubor), Heat (Calor), Swelling (Tumor)
- Pain (Dolor)

Step 5: Recruitment of Immune Cells

- NK cells destroy infected cells
- Eosinophils attack parasites
- Basophils participate in allergy

Step 6: Antigen Capture

Dendritic cells capture antigens.

Step 7: Migration

Dendritic cells migrate to lymph nodes.

Step 8: Activation of Adaptive Immunity

Activation of T-cells and B-cells occurs.

2. Acquired (Adaptive) Immunity

- Acquired immunity is a type of immunity that develops after exposure to an antigen and provides a specific response against that antigen.

Characteristics

- Specific against particular antigen
- Develops after exposure
- Has memory
- Mediated by B-cells and T-cells
- Faster response upon re-exposure

Classification of Acquired Immunity

A. On the Basis of Cells Involved

1. Humoral Immunity
2. Cellular Immunity

B. On the Basis of Source

1. Active Immunity
2. Passive Immunity

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Humoral Immunity

- Humoral immunity is a type of adaptive immunity in which B-lymphocytes produce antibodies that circulate in body fluids (blood and lymph) to fight pathogens.

Functions

- Protects against extracellular pathogens
- Neutralizes toxins
- Produces antibodies

Role of B-Cells

- Produced and matured in bone marrow.
- Possess B-Cell Receptors (BCRs).
- Recognize specific antigens.

Activation of B-Cells

1. Antigen binds to BCR.
2. B-cell engulfs antigen.
3. Antigen fragments are presented on **MHC-II** molecules.
4. Helper T-cell recognizes antigen-MHC-II complex.
5. Cytokines activate B-cell.
6. B-cell proliferates and differentiates into:

Plasma Cells

- Produce large amounts of antibodies.

Memory B-Cells

- Long-lived cells.
- Provide rapid response upon re-exposure.

Cellular Immunity

- Cellular immunity is a type of adaptive immunity in which T-lymphocytes directly attack and destroy infected, abnormal, or foreign cells without using antibodies.

Functions

- Protects against intracellular pathogens
- Eliminates virus-infected cells
- Destroys cancer cells

Role of T-Cells

- Produced in bone marrow.
- Mature in thymus.
- Require Antigen Presenting Cells (APCs) for activation.

Antigen Presenting Cells (APCs)

- Dendritic cells, Macrophages, B-cells

Antigen Presentation

APCs present antigen fragments with MHC molecules.

- MHC-I → Cytotoxic T-cells ($CD8^+$)
- MHC-II → Helper T-cells ($CD4^+$)

Types of T-Cells

1. Cytotoxic T-Cells ($CD8^+$)

- Kill infected cells
- Kill cancer cells
- Recognize antigen through MHC-I

2. Helper T-Cells ($CD4^+$)

- Release cytokines
- Activate B-cells, Activate macrophages
- Activate cytotoxic T-cells

3. Regulatory T-Cells (Treg)

- Suppress excessive immune response
- Prevent autoimmunity

4. Memory T-Cells

- Long-lived cells
- Provide rapid response during future infections

Active Immunity

- Active immunity develops when the body's own immune system produces antibodies and memory cells in response to an antigen.

Features

- Long-lasting protection
- Memory present
- Slow onset

Types

1. *Natural Active Immunity*

Develops after natural infection.

Example: Immunity after recovering from chickenpox.

2. *Artificial Active Immunity*

Develops after vaccination.

Examples:

- Polio vaccine
- COVID-19 vaccine

Passive Immunity

Passive immunity is the immunity in which ready-made antibodies are transferred to an individual.

Features

- Immediate protection
- No memory cells
- Temporary protection

Types

1. *Natural Passive Immunity*

Antibodies are transferred from mother to baby.

- Through placenta → IgG
- Through breast milk → IgA

2. *Artificial Passive Immunity*

Ready-made antibodies are injected.

Examples:

- Anti-rabies serum
- Anti-snake venom

Immunoglobulins (Antibodies)

- Immunoglobulins (Ig) are glycoproteins produced by B-lymphocytes (plasma cells) in response to an antigen.
- They are Y-shaped proteins that specifically recognize and bind to antigens, helping to neutralize or eliminate them.
- Immunoglobulins are highly specific to antigens and form an important part of Humoral Immunity.

Structure of Antibody (Immunoglobulin)

An antibody is a Y-shaped glycoprotein composed of four polypeptide chains:

- Two Heavy (H) Chains
- Two Light (L) Chains

These chains are connected by disulfide bonds.

1. Heavy Chains (H Chains)

Characteristics

- Two identical heavy chains
- Molecular weight $\approx$ 50 kDa each
- Form the core structure of antibody
- Determine the class (type) of immunoglobulin

Types of Heavy Chains

Heavy Chain	Antibody Class
γ (Gamma)	IgG
α (Alpha)	IgA
μ (Mu)	IgM
ϵ (Epsilon)	IgE
δ (Delta)	IgD

2. Light Chains (L Chains)

Characteristics

- Two identical light chains
- Molecular weight $\approx$ 25 kDa each
- Attached to heavy chains

Types

1. Kappa (κ)
2. Lambda (λ)

Regions of Antibody

1. Fab Region (Fragment Antigen Binding)

Features

- Located at the two arms of Y-shaped antibody
- Contains antigen-binding sites
- Responsible for antigen recognition

Functions

- Binds specifically to antigens
- Each antibody has two Fab regions

2. Fc Region (Fragment Crystallizable)

Features

- Located at the stem of Y
- Formed by constant regions of heavy chains

Functions

- Activates complement system
- Binds to Fc receptors on immune cells

3. Variable Region (V Region)

Features

- Present at the tips of Fab arms
- Sequence varies among antibodies

Functions

- Recognizes specific antigens
- Responsible for antigen specificity

4. Constant Region (C Region)

Features

- Remains similar within an antibody class

Functions

- Determines antibody class
- Responsible for effector functions

5. Hinge Region

Features

- Located between Fab and Fc regions
- Rich in proline and cysteine amino acids

Functions

- Provides flexibility

Disulfide Bonds in Antibodies

- Disulfide bonds (-S-S-) are strong covalent bonds that stabilize antibody structure.

Types of Disulfide Bonds

1. Interchain Disulfide Bonds

Present between different chains:

- Heavy-Heavy chains
- Heavy-Light chains

Function

Hold antibody chains together.

2. Intrachain Disulfide Bonds

Present within the same polypeptide chain.

Function

Maintain three-dimensional structure of antibody.

Types of Immunoglobulins

Based on the type of heavy chain, antibodies are classified into five major classes:

1. IgG
2. IgA
3. IgM
4. IgE
5. IgD

1. IgG (Gamma Immunoglobulin)

Characteristics

- Most abundant antibody in blood
- Constitutes about 70–75% of total immunoglobulins
- Monomeric in structure
- Smallest antibody capable of crossing placenta

Functions

- Neutralizes toxins and viruses
- Opsonization of pathogens
- Activates complement system
- Provides long-term immunity
- Protects fetus through placental transfer

Clinical Importance

- Main antibody of secondary immune response
- Provides passive immunity to newborn

2. IgA (Alpha Immunoglobulin)

Characteristics

- Found mainly in body secretions
- Usually exists as a dimer
- Major antibody of mucosal surfaces

Location

- Saliva
- Tears
- Mucus
- Colostrum
- Breast milk
- Respiratory tract
- Gastrointestinal tract

Functions

- Prevents attachment of pathogens
- Protects mucosal surfaces
- Neutralizes bacteria and viruses

Clinical Importance

Acts as the first line of defense at mucosal surfaces.

3. IgM (Mu Immunoglobulin)

Characteristics

- Largest antibody
- Exists as a pentamer
- First antibody produced during primary immune response

Functions

- Strong activator of complement system
- Agglutinates microorganisms
- Provides early protection during infection

Clinical Importance

Presence of IgM indicates:

- Recent infection
- Acute infection

4. IgE (Epsilon Immunoglobulin)

Characteristics

- Present in very low concentration in blood
- Strong affinity for mast cells and basophils
- Exists as a monomer

Functions

- Mediates allergic reactions
- Defends against parasitic infections
- Triggers histamine release

Effects of Histamine Release

- Vasodilation
- Increased vascular permeability
- Bronchoconstriction

Associated Disorders

- Asthma
- Hay fever
- Anaphylaxis
- Allergic rhinitis

5. IgD (Delta Immunoglobulin)

Characteristics

- Least abundant immunoglobulin
- Exists as a monomer
- Found mainly on naïve B-cells

Functions

- Acts as B-cell receptor (BCR)
- Participates in antigen recognition
- Helps activate B-cells
- Assists B-cell differentiation

Comparison of Immunoglobulins

Feature	IgG	IgA	IgM	IgE	IgD
Structure	Monomer	Dimer	Pentamer	Monomer	Monomer
Percentage in Blood	70–75%	10–15%	5–10%	Very Low	Very Low
Main Function	Long-term immunity	Mucosal immunity	Primary response	Allergy & parasites	B-cell receptor
Complement Activation	Yes	No	Strongest	No	No
Crosses Placenta	Yes	No	No	No	No
First Produced	No	No	Yes	No	No

One-Line Revision

- **IgG** → Most abundant, crosses placenta.
- **IgA** → Mucosal antibody, found in secretions.
- **IgM** → First antibody produced, pentamer.
- **IgE** → Allergy and parasitic defense.
- **IgD** → B-cell receptor and activation.