

Inducible Cas9 T Cells: An Innovative Platform for Allogeneic CAR-T Cell Generation

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Background

- CAR-T cells show great promise in treating many types of cancers
- Genetically engineered allogeneic T cells have the potential to provide universal CAR-T cells to treat large number of patients
- CRISPR/Cas9 is used for generating allogeneic T cells



Why is it Necessary?

The use of autologous CAR-T cells requires individual manufacturing for each patient which is challenging in terms of quality, mass production and logistics. Allogeneic CAR-T cells have the potential to address these challenges



Knock-out (KO) Using iCas9 T Cells









Figure 1. Establishing single or multiple genes' KO in iCas9 T cells

(A) Schematic representation showing the workflow of genes KO in iCas9 T cells. iCas9 T cells transfected with: (B) single gRNA targeted to TRAC gene (C) β 2M-/TCR- knock out (from PD1 negative cells) of iCas9 T cells transfected with multiple gRNAs targeted to TRAC, β 2M and PD1 genes. (D) β 2M-/TCR- knock out (from PD1 negative cells) of iCas9 T cells transfected with single vector expressing multiple gRNAs targeted to TRAC, β 2M and PD1. In (B-D), iCas9 T cells were induced (Dox) and compared to uninduced control. All experiments were performed using FACS. Two factor repeated measures ANOVA was performed for all comparisons.

Take Home Message

The iCas9 T cells platform is an innovative approach for the generation of allogeneic CAR-T cells that allows the KO of genes involved in a range of immunogenic responses at high efficiency and more importantly for KI of relevant CARs.

Conclusions

- Successful generation of inducible Cas9 expressing T cells
- Generation of inducible Cas9 expressing T cells master cell bank
- The platform allows for single/multiple knock-outs and knock-ins using iCas9 T cells transfected with single/multiple gRNAs and/or plasmid encoding multiple gRNAs
- Transfection of single stranded DNA template with promoter yield the highest knock-in efficiency in iCas9 T cells
- iCas9 T cells and Cas9-RNP reach comparable KO and KI efficiencies

References:

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