京都大学	博士(医科学)	氏名	FLAHOU Charlotte				
	Humanized mouse models with endogenously developed human natural killer						
論文題目	cells for <i>in vivo</i> immunogen	icity	testing	of	HLA	class	I-edited
	iPSC-derived cells						

(論文内容の要旨)

Stem cell-derived therapies follow the same compatibility considerations between donors and recipients as regular transplantations and transfusions. The next development of human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) for regenerative medicine consists in depleting the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) expression on donor hiPSCs to make them universally compatible.

Various types of HLA-edited hiPSC-derived cells that evade allogenic immune responses are being developed for regenerative medicine. However, the HLA class I depletion makes the same cells vulnerable to natural killer cell responses. To answer this concern, selective HLA molecules deletion such as HLA-A/B-knockout hiPSCs, which retain the NK inhibitor HLA-C, has recently been developed. To test the immunogenicity of HLA-edited cells *in vivo*, humanized mice with endogenously developed human NK cells would be significant assets.

The aim of this study was to formally establish the appropriateness of humanized mice for *in vivo* immunogenicity testing against NK cells and further clarify the immunogenicity of HLA-edited hiPSC-derived cells from different blood lineages and differentiation stages. To this end, MSTRG and the commercially available NSG-SGM3 mice were chosen, as they are next generation strains that are enhanced for human hematopoietic cell reconstitution. Additional treatment with human interleukin (IL-15) / IL-15 receptor  $\alpha$  after human hematopoietic stem cell engraftment successfully reconstituted high levels of endogenous human NK cells.

In these humanized mice, it was found that 1) HLA class I-depleted megakaryocytes were rejected dependent on the human NK cell level in both models, 2) HLA class I-depleted T cells, which is another major cell type in the translational phase, were similarly rejected, and 3) HLA class I-depleted hematopoietic progenitor cells (HPCs) were also rejected, but HLA-A/B-KO HPCs were not.

These results provide *in vivo* proof that HLA class I-depleted hiPSC-derived grafts, if not retaining HLA-C expression, are rejected by NK cells, and simultaneously strongly support the applicability of humanized mice reconstituted with NK cells (or "hu-NK-mice") for the preclinical *in vivo* assessment of various types of HLA-edited cells. Therefore, giving a more reliable basis for applying HLA-edited hiPSC-derived cells to clinical application.

## (論文審査の結果の要旨)

HILA クラス I 欠失 iPS 細胞は、再生医療用ソースとして開発が進んでいるが、T 細胞だけでなく NK 細胞に拒絶されるリスクも考慮する必要がある。そこで本研究ではヒト NK 細胞が十分に再構成されたヒト化マウスを作製し、HILA 欠失 iPS 細胞由来の多様な系統および分化段階の血液細胞の in vivo 免疫原性を検証した。初めに免疫不全を背景に持つ MSTRG および NSG-SGM3 遺伝子改変マウスにおいて、ヒト造血幹細胞移植後にヒト IL-15/IL-15 受容体 αを投与することで、ヒト NK 細胞の高レベルの再構成に成功した。次にこれら 2種のヒト化マウスモデルに iPS 細胞由来の各種細胞を輸注したところ、1) HLA クラス I 欠失巨核球株は両モデルでヒト NK 細胞数に依存して拒絶され、2) HLA クラス I 欠失下細胞も NSG-SGM3 モデルで同様に拒絶された。一方、3) HLA クラス I 欠失造血前駆細胞(HPC)は MSTRG モデルで同様に拒絶されたが、既報で期待された通り HLA-A/B 欠失("HLA-C 残し") HPC は拒絶が回避された。これらの結果は、HLA クラス I 改変 iPS 細胞由来細胞の NK 細胞応答に関わる in vivo 免疫原性の定量性評価の可能性、及び、ヒト NK 細胞が再構成された 2種のヒト化マウスモデルの in vivo 評価モデルとしての有用性・適切性を示した。

以上の研究は、NK 細胞の HLA クラス I 欠失細胞に対する免疫応答の今後の更なる解明、及び、同種製剤を用いる再生医療開発に寄与するところが多い。

したがって、本論文は博士(医科学)の学位論文として価値あるものと認める。

なお、本学位授与申請者は、令和 5 年 8 月 9 日実施の論文内容とそれに関連した試問を受け、合格と認められたものである。