Lymphoma Cell Line (FL-18) and Epstein-Barr Virus–Carrying Cell Line (FL-18-EB) Obtained From a Patient With Follicular Lymphoma: Monoclonal Derivation and Different Properties

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A novel cell line, FL-18, was established from the pleural effusion of a patient with follicular small cleaved cell lymphoma. At the same time, an Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) nuclear antigen (EBNA)-positive cell line, FL-18-EB, was established from the EBV-infected culture of the same pleural effusion cells. Both cell lines had the same monoclonal surface immunoglobulin (IgG), and they had the same karyotype as that of the fresh pleural effusion cells in which a reciprocal translocation between the long arm of chromosomes 14 and 18 \([t(14;18)(q32;q21)]\) was detected. Gene rearrangement analysis of immunoglobulin heavy-chain gene \((\lambda)\), and \(k\)-light-chain gene \((\kappa)\) showed the same rearranged configurations in the two cell lines; however, some morphological and phenotypic differences were found. The FL-18-EB cells, which were morphologically similar to common EBNA-positive lymphoblastoid cell lines of normal B cell origin at the initial phase of culture, were larger than the FL-18 cells and contained multinucleated giant cells. The FL-18 cells lacked cytoplasmic immunoglobulin and were positive for common acute lymphoblastic leukemia antigen (CALLA), whereas the FL-18-EB cells had cytoplasmic immunoglobulin and were negative for CALLA. Thus, the phenotype of FL-18-EB seems to be a result of a shift by EBV infection to a more mature stage in the B cell differentiation pathway than that of FL-18. The paired availability of EBV-free and EBV-infected cell lines of a neoplastic clone is unique and valuable in considering EBV infectibility of neoplastic B cells and resultant phenotypic changes.

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direct immunofluorescence method. Reactivities with monoclonal antibodies were tested by the indirect immunofluorescence method. Monoclonal antibodies used in this study consisted of OKIa-1 for the HLA-DR antigen, B1,13 B2,14 J5 for common acute lymphoblastic leukemia antigen (CALLA),18 Leu-1,20 PCA-1,21 EBVCS-4,22 EBVCS-5,22 and OKT9,23 EBNA was tested according to the method of Reedman and Klein.24

Cytogenetic study. The pleural effusion cells were processed after short-term culture (24 hours) in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 20% FCS at 37°C. The cells were harvested after a 60-minute incubation with Colcemid and then treated with 0.075 mol/L KCl for 20 minutes before they were fixed in methanol acetic acid (3:1). Metaphases were banded by trypsin-Giemsa (G-band).25 Chromosome analysis of the cultured FL-18 and FL-18-EB cells was done 6 months after the initiation of the culture. Metaphase preparation was performed when the cells showed exponential proliferation. Processing and banding methods were the same as those of the pleural effusion cells.

Gene rearrangement analysis of Ig heavy chain and light chain. Genomic DNA was extracted from the THP-1 (for control), FL-18, and FL-18-EB cells as previously described26 and digested with BamHI. The digested DNA was fractionated by agarose gel electrophoresis and transferred to nitrocellulose paper according to the method of Southern.27 The 3.4-kilobase (kb) EcoRI-HindIII fragment of the joining region of the heavy-chain gene and the 2-kb SalI-Sacl fragment of the joining region of the κ chain gene were used as Jκ and Jκ probes. The nick-translated 32P-labeled probes were hybridized to the nitrocellulose filters and visualized on autoradiograms.

RESULTS

Morphological findings. Cytocentrifuged smears of the FL-18 and FL-18-EB cells are shown in Fig 1. The pleural effusion cells were small cleaved lymphoid cells that were morphologically the same as the lymph node cells with a diagnosis of follicular lymphoma. The FL-18 cells were also small to medium in size. The FL-18-EB cells, however, were larger than the FL-18 cells and contained multinucleated giant cells. The FL-18-EB cells were indistinguishable from the cells of common lymphoblastoid cell line of normal B cell origin at the early phase of the culture because the FL-18-EB cells formed firm clumps and exhibited pseudopods.28

Cytochemical examination, surface marker analysis, and EBNA. Table 1 shows the results of cytochemistry and cell surface phenotype including reactivities with the monoclonal antibodies and EBNA. The pleural, FL-18, and FL-18-EB cells were all negative for POX, NAE, or CAE. The FL-18 cells were also positive for HLA-DR and B1. Unlike the pleural effusion cells, the FL-18 cells had surface Ig (IgGκ) and were positive for CALLA. They expressed the B2 antigen only to a limited degree. The pleural effusion cells and the FL-18 cells were negative for EBNA. Virtually all of the cells of FL-18-EB were positive for EBNA. They were also positive for HLA-DR and B1 and had monoclonal surface Ig (IgGκ). They had cytoplasmic Ig and expressed the B2 antigen in a major population. They were negative for CALLA. Neither of the two cell lines was reactive with PCA-1, EBVCS-4 and -5, which have been reported to react specifically with common lymphoblastoid cell lines of B cell origin, reacted with FL-18-EB but not with FL-18.

Cytogenetic study. Table 2 shows the results of the chromosome analysis of the fresh pleural, FL-18, and FL-
Table 2. Summary of the Karyotype of the Pleural Effusion Cells, FL-18, and FL-18-EB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pleural effusion cells</th>
<th>49, XY, +X, +7, +12, dir ins(13;8) (q14;q22q24), t(8;22) (q24;q13), t(14;18) (q32;q21)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FL-18</td>
<td>49, XY, +X, +7, +12, -17, +del(X) (p11), del(6) (p11), dir ins(13;8) (q14;q22q24), t(8;22) (q24;q13), t(14;18) (q32;q21), + der(17)(t17;?) (q23;?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL-18-EB</td>
<td>49, XY, +X, +7, +12, dir ins(13;8) (q14;q22q24), t(8;22) (q24;q13), t(14;18) (q32;q21) (Tetraploid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94, XX, -Y, 4n + [+7, +7, +12, +12], 2x dir ins(13;8) (q14;q22q24), 2x t(8;22) (q24;q13), 2x t(14;18) (q32;q21)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The fresh lymphoma cells were hyperdiploid, and the modal chromosome number was 49 with gains of chromosomes 7, 12, and an X. They showed a reciprocal translocation between the long arms of chromosomes 14 and 18 [t(14;18)(q32;q21)]. In addition, complex chromosome rearrangements involving nos. 8, 13, and 22 were observed. FL-18 also had a 14q+ marker chromosome that was the result of a translocation between nos. 14 and 18. The modal karyotype was the same as that of the pleural effusion cells. In some cells, however, additional abnormal chromosomes such as 6p−, 17q+, and Xp− were found. The modal karyotype of FL-18-EB was the same as that of the fresh lymphoma cells. The additional abnormal chromosomes observed in FL-18 were not found in FL-18-EB. Fifty percent of the karyotypes of FL-18-EB showed a tetraploid genome. None of the FL-18-EB cells showed a normal karyotype.

Gene rearrangement analysis of Ig heavy chain and light chain. Fig 2 shows the gene rearrangement analysis of Ig heavy chain and κ chain when using BamHI as a restriction endonuclease. Two clonally rearranged bands in the analysis using Jκ as a probe and one rearranged band in that using Jκ were observed at the same positions in FL-18 and FL-18-EB. The pleural effusion cells were not available for this study.

In vitro infection of FL-18 with EBV. Virtually no EBNA-positive cells were induced among the treated FL-18 cells.

Discussion

FL-18 is thought to be derived from the lymphoma cells in the pleural effusion of a patient with follicular small cleaved cell lymphoma because it carried the same karyotype as that of the pleural effusion cells and was negative for EBNA. Cytogenetically, FL-18 had a reciprocal translocation between the long arms of chromosomes 14 and 18 [t(14;18)(q32;q21)], which is known to be specific for follicular lymphoma. The details of the karyotype of FL-18 have been reported previously. FL-18 had monoclonal surface Ig (IgGκ), although no surface or cytoplasmic Ig was detected in the pleural effusion cells.

We also established an EBV-carrying cell line, FL-18-EB. It is unlikely that FL-18-EB is a common lymphoblastoid cell line derived from normal B cell in the pleural effusion because FL-18-EB had the same karyotype and monoclonal Ig as FL-18. Moreover, Ig gene rearrangement analysis
using JH and Jκ as probes revealed the same rearranged bands in the two cell lines, thereby indicating their clonal identity.

Several morphological and phenotypic differences were found between FL-18 and FL-18-EB. Unlike the FL-18 cells, the FL-18-EB cells were larger and contained multinucleated giant cells. At the early stage of passage, the FL-18-EB cells were morphologically indistinguishable from common lymphoblastoid cell lines of normal B cell origin.

Some investigators have described similar changes accompanying EBV transformation of neoplastic B cells. Karande et al reported that EBV-transformed chronic lymphocytic leukemia cells were morphologically similar to common lymphoblastoid cell lines.6 Fresen and zur Hausen also reported that their EBV-infected BJAB cells contained multinucleated giant cells. In addition, the expression of the EBVCS-4 or -5-determined antigen can be regarded as a feature shared by common lymphoblastoid cell lines with FL-18-EB but not with FL-18. It should be noted that the antigen is not related specifically to EBV infection of the cell lines because Raji cells do not express this antigen.

The FL-18-EB cells expressed the B2 antigen, whereas the FL-18 cells hardly did. The C3d receptor detected with B2 is thought to be a receptor molecule for EBV. The augmentation of the C3d receptor on the FL-18-EB cells may be a result of EBV infection as has been described. Alternatively, EBV may have infected the C3d receptor-positive subpopulation of the fresh lymphoma cells, thereby leading to the generation of FL-18-EB, although the extent to which the fresh cells expressed the B2 antigen is unknown. The FL-18 cells lacked cytoplasmic Ig and were positive for CALLA, whereas the FL-18-EB cells had cytoplasmic Ig and did not express CALLA. It is generally thought that, in the differentiation from B cells to plasma cells, cytoplasmic Ig appears and surface Ig fades away. CALLA, which is expressed on most of the precursors of B cells such as common ALL and a part of B cells, disappears in the differentiation of B cells. Therefore, FL-18-EB seems to be closer to plasma cells than FL-18 is, although the FL-18-EB cells did not react with PCA-1, which is thought to be specific for plasma cells. These phenotypic differences are probably due to EBV infection itself rather than to the clonal difference of the two cell lines. To confirm the effect of EBV infection on the lymphoma cells, we tried to infect the FL-18 cells with EBV in vitro. No EBNA-positive cells were induced in any experiments. However, further studies are necessary to prove the absence of the infectibility.

The FL-18 and FL-18-EB cell lines may be of value for examining two isogenic cell lines at slightly different stages of maturation.

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