Retraction: Activation of Human Oral Epithelial Cells by Neutrophil Proteinase 3 Through Protease-Activated Receptor-2

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Letter of Retraction


This retraction follows an investigation by Tohoku University into scientific misconduct. The investigation pointed out the following:

1. Fig. 1E: HSC-2, an oral epithelial cell line, is different from KB cells, but the patterns of their band staining for IL-8, MCP-1, and GAPDH cDNA are the same.
2. Fig. 2D: Bands for MCP-1 and GAPDH cDNA in Fig. 1E and ICAM-1 and GAPDH cDNA in this figure are the same.
3. Fig. 4A: Total RNA was extracted from KB (lane 2), HSC-2 (lane 3), and PBMCs (lane 4), and cDNA was prepared and analyzed for the expression of PAR1-4 and GAPDH by RT-PCR. However, three bands of PAR3 and a band of PAR4 are the same. Furthermore, the patterns of GAPDH in this article and those in Fig. 1B and 2A of The Journal of Immunology, 2003, 170: 5690–5696 and in Fig. 2A of Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology, 2003, 10: 286–292 are the same.
4. Fig. 4B and 4D: Three panels of the expression of PAR1 with PR3 and PR3 + cytochalasin B (Cyto B) and PAR3 with PR3 + Cyto B are the same. Two panels of the expression of PAR2 with PR3 + cycloheximide (CHX) in Fig. 4B and with trypsin in Fig. 4D are the same.

The first author, who conducted these experiments, could not counter the argument by adducing raw data at the investigation, and the investigation recognized them as scientific misconduct. Therefore, we wish to retract the article.

We deeply regret these errors and apologize to the scientific community for the need to retract the article.

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