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## Cellular Immunology

Volume 142, Issue 2, July 1992, Pages 287-295

The proportion of symmetric and asymmetric IgG antibody molecules synthesized by a cellular clone (Hybridoma) can be regulated by placental culture supernatants

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0008-8749\(92\)90290-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/0008-8749(92)90290-6)

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### Abstract

The purpose of the present work was to establish whether the placenta is producing factors favoring an increased synthesis of asymmetric IgG antibodies which are known to assume a protective effect upon paternal antigens to which they largely are specific. In this way they can contribute to fetal survival in the maternal uterine environment. The hybridoma cell lines OKT8 (anti-CD8) and 112B4 (anti-DNP) were used in this respect since they synthesize both symmetric and asymmetric molecules of the IgG2a and IgG1 subclasses, respectively, murine isotypes in which anti-paternal antibodies have been detected. The cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% BCS

and different amounts (5, 10, and 20%) of human placental supernatant. After incubation for 3 days at 37 °C in a humid chamber containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub> the cells were centrifuged and the antibodies were obtained from the culture medium by a purification procedure involving precipitation at 50% ammonium sulfate saturation followed by DEAE-cellulose chromatography. Symmetric and asymmetric antibodies were separated by Con A-Sepharose affinity chromatography, the latter lectin retaining selectively only asymmetric IgG molecules. Both OKT8 and 112B4 hybridomas presenting a stable background synthesis of 15–17% of asymmetric antibodies have shown an increased level reaching 27–28% of these molecules in the presence of 5–10% placental supernatant added to the RPMI 1640 culture medium. These results clearly show that placental factors can up-regulate efficiently the synthesis of asymmetric IgG molecules of different isotypes secreted by plasma cells.



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