Disease Severity of CoV as a Function of Dose, Age, & Genetic Background

Vineet D. Menachery Airborne Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Workshop Session 4

The Menachery L



Why the "who" might matter as much as the "how much"?

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Overview

• The range of disease observed with COVID-19 reveals complexity

 The amount of virus likely matters for disease outcome based on CoV in vivo models

• The specifics on the "who" are a main arbiter of disease and damage

In Vivo CoV Models

• A variety of models exist for SARS-CoV-2

• Work from SARS-CoV & MERS-CoV mouse-models

 Mouse models allow evaluation of host "factors" that influence disease outcome

What is the relationship between dose and disease?

 Limitations: In vivo models rarely use a natural infection approach

Dose Response- SARS-CoV-2



• Data argues for SARS-CoV-2, dose alters disease

Imai et al. PNAS 2020;117:28:16587-16595



 Young C57/B6 mice infected with mouse adapted SARS-CoV

 Dose dependent changes in disease



 Young C57/B6 mice infected with mouse adapted SARS-CoV

 Dose dependent changes in disease

Menachery PLoS One. 2015; 10(6): e0131451



• Similar findings with the MERS-CoV mouse models

 Results demonstrate impact of dose on CoV mediated disease

Coleman J Virol. 2017 Jan 1; 91(1): e01825-16. Li Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2017 Apr 11; 114(15): E3119–E3128. Cockrell Nat Microbiol. 2017; 2(2): 16226.

Disease and Host Conditions

- Even if dose is equal, disease varies based on host conditions
 - Genetic Background
 - Health Status/Condition

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– Age

C57BL/6



• Changes in strains alters disease/outcomes

The Collaborative Cross (CC)



- The Collaborative Cross
 - Founders funnel bred to make genetically distinct lines
 - Variation randomly distributed throughout
 - Lines inbred, reproducible, and are large enough to support statistical analysis





Gralinski PLoS Genet. 2015 Oct; 11(10): e1005504.



Gralinski PLoS Genet. 2015 Oct; 11(10): e1005504.

Percent Starting Weight vs. Titer



Gralinski PLoS Genet. 2015 Oct; 11(10): e1005504.

• Differences in host genetics alters disease

• Changes can be independent of viral dose indicating importance of host response

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Health Condition and Disease

 Obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure have been associated with more severe disease for SARS-CoV-2

• Work with Influenza has shown exacerbated disease in obese *in vivo* models

Smith. J Nutr . 2007 May;137(5):1236-43. doi: 10.1093/jn/137.5.1236. Reviewed in Honce. Front Immunol. 2019; 10: 1071.

Health Conditions and Disease



 Diet-induced obesity model shows exacerbated SARS-CoV disease versus standard

Health Condition and Disease

 Clear impact of obesity on disease in context of same dose

• Other groups exploring other parameters including diabetes, hypoxia, and other conditions that may exacerbate disease

Disease and Host Conditions

- Even if dose is equal, disease varies based on host conditions
 - Genetic Background
 - Health Status/Condition

– Age



• Major age dependent disease with CoVs in humans

Leung et al. Ann Intern Med . 2004 Nov 2;141(9):662-73. WHO MERS-CoV Database 2019.



• Major age dependent disease with CoVs in humans

Goumenou et al. Mol Med Rep . 2020 Jul;22(1):20-32. doi: 10.3892/mmr.2020.11079.

Aging & Infection







2.5 Month Human Age: 18-22

>20 Month Old Human Age: Early 70s

5 Month Old Human Age: 28-34

12 Month Old Human Age: late 50s

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SARS-CoV age-dependent disease conserved in mice



• Dose is major driver of lethality in aged mice



• Enhanced disease not due to increase in viral replication



Age-dependent disease observed in SARS-2 hamster model

Imai et al. PNAS 2020;117:28:16587-16595 Dinnon et al. Version 1. bioRxiv. Preprint. 2020 May 7.

 Older mice are more susceptible to SARS-CoV and SARS-2 disease

 Age-related disease is a spectrum rather than binary in terms of damage by age

Disease and Host Conditions

• Disease varies based on host conditions

 The combination of host conditions alters the outcomes in not always expected ways

Host Combinations and Disease



• Examined genetic diversity (CC) and aging following SARS-CoV infection

Host Combinations and Disease



• While aged mice are generally more susceptible, the genetic can shift/alter outcome

Host Combination and Disease

 Combining host conditions does not always lead to predictable outcomes

• Other combinations may offer better understanding of complexity of outcomes

Conclusions

 Dose "how much" matters in the *in vivo* models of CoV disease

 The "who" matters in terms of genetics, health status, and age

 Infectious dose is linked to disease but is not the only variables driving outcome