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Dendritic cells in systemic sclerosis: advances from human and mice studies

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Highlights

- Emerging studies have unraveled DC dysfunction in SSc that likely play a key pathological role.
- Aberrant pDCs and their IFN-I production have been the focus of attention in DC research in SSc.
- Many aspects of DCs remain unexplored in SSc, such as immune check point regulators.
- Recent discoveries of novel DC subsets warrant a thorough investigation in SSc.
- DC-based therapies have shown promise in other fields and merits evaluation in future SSc research.

Abstract

Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a complex heterogeneous fibrotic autoimmune disease with an unknown exact etiology, and characterized by three hallmarks: fibrosis, vasculopathy, and immune dysfunction. Dendritic cells (DCs) are specialized cells in pathogen sensing with high potency of antigen presentation and capable of releasing mediators to shape the immune response. Altered DCs

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