Macrophage polarization in hypoxia and ischemia/reperfusion: Insights into the role of energetic metabolism

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Impact Statement

The review summarizes the current knowledge on macrophage phenotype alteration (also known as macrophage polarization) under conditions of hypoxia (oxygen deprivation) *in vitro* or ischemia/ reperfusion in various tissues (liver, kidney, heart, brain) *in vivo*. We propose a new concept on how ischemia/reperfusion alters macrophage metabolism and how interventions in macrophage metabolism (e.g. dietary interventions) may affect macrophage polarization. The concept of macrophage phenotype shifting from M1 to M2, induced by targeting the energy metabolism, might be useful for developing treatment strategies for ischemic injuries.

Abstract

Macrophages, the key cells of innate immunity, possess wide phenotypical and functional heterogeneity. *In vitro* studies showed that microenvironment signals could induce the so-called polarization of macrophages into two phenotypes: classically activated macrophages (M1) or alternatively activated macrophages (M2). Functionally, they are considered as proinflammatory and anti-inflammatory/ pro-regenerative, respectively. However, *in vivo* studies into macrophage states revealed a continuum of phenotypes from M1 to M2 state instead of the clearly distinguished extreme phenotypes. An important role in determining the type of polarization of macrophages is played by energy metabolism, including the activity of oxidative phosphorylation. In this regard, hypoxia and ischemia that affect cellular energetics can modulate macrophage polarization. Here, we overview the data on macrophage polarization during metabolic shift–associated pathologies including ischemia and ischemia/reperfusion in various organs and discuss the role of energy metabolism potentially triggering the macrophage polarization.

Keywords: Macrophages, hypoxia, ischemia, metabolism, energy metabolism, M1–M2 macrophage polarization

Experimental Biology and Medicine 2022; 247: 958–971. DOI: 10.1177/15353702221080130

Introduction

Macrophages contribute to regulating tissue homeostasis, organ development, tissue remodeling, regeneration, inflammation, and various pathologies. Being an essential component of innate immunity, macrophages differentiate toward various phenotypes in response to environmental alterations.¹ They are sensitive to a wide spectrum of stimuli, including viral, microbial, and parasite antigens; immune complexes; and various mediators released by apoptotic, necrotic, or other cells.

Depending on the growth factors, cytokines, and other mediators released into the microenvironment by macrophages, they are divided into two major *in vitro* subsets with different physiological activity:² the proinflammatory M1-polarized macrophages and the anti-inflammatory M2-polarized macrophages.³ Macrophage activation and differentiation *in vivo* is not a linear process; each subset has different characteristics and functions in homeostasis and plays different roles in the outcome of disease development.⁴ Currently, macrophage polarization *in vivo* is considered to be a wide continuum of phenotypes between M1 and M2 states⁴⁻⁶ that get activated differently based on a variety of physiological signals. However, such discrete macrophage classification is still useful for *in vitro* studies, including a description of their function in modeling pathological processes.

Hypoxia is defined as a condition of reduced oxygen saturation (pO2, 0–20mmHg) which arises as a result of a damaged or dysfunctional vascular network and diminished blood and oxygen supply. Hypoxia accompanies many pathological conditions, including inflammation, hepatic ischemia, organ transplantation, cerebral stroke, myocardial infarction (MI), arthritic joints, atherosclerotic plaques,





Anti-inflammatory response

Figure 1. Macrophage polarization *in vitro* including M2 macrophage subsets (M2a, M2b, M2c, and M2d). The scheme shows activating stimuli for M1/M2 polarization and their main functions. (A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

and malignant tumors.^{7–10} Macrophage polarization can be induced by hypoxia and is associated with pathological conditions like ischemia and ischemia/reperfusion (IR). Here, we discuss how mild alterations of energy metabolism by changing a diet (glucose-free, low-calorie, keto diets) can affect macrophage phenotype and hypoxic/ischemic damage.

M1/M2 paradigm of macrophage polarization

Currently, two major *in vitro* macrophage subsets are recognized: proinflammatory M1 macrophages and antiinflammatory M2 macrophages.¹¹ They are activated by different molecules, have different surface markers, and produce different chemokines and cytokines (Figure 1; see Supplementary Table).

M1 macrophages are activated by toll-like receptor (TLR) ligands, such as lipopolysaccharides (LPS; bacterial cell wall components), interferon- γ (IFN- γ), granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), and tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α).^{12–14} M2 macrophages are divided into four subsets (M2a, M2b, M2c, and M2d). Their activating stimuli (Figure 1) include the following:

M2a: interleukin (IL)-4 or IL-13 (secreted by mast cells, basophils, and Th2-lymphocytes), downstream involvement of jumonji domain-containing-3 (Jmjd3), and interferon regulatory factor-4 (IRF-4);¹⁵ M2b: immune complexes and IL-1 β ;^{15–18}

M2c: glucocorticoid hormones, IL-10, or transforming growth factor- β (TGF- β);^{17–19}

M2d: TGF- β + adenosine 2A receptor (A2AR), IL-10.

Furthermore, IL-21,²⁰ IL-33,²¹ and IL-34²² were shown to induce M2 polarization. Since the activation status of

macrophages is regulated by suppressors of cytokine signaling (SOCS) protein isoforms, this protein was suggested to be a potential marker for macrophage phenotype: SOCS3 is associated with M1 macrophages, whereas an increase in the SOCS1/SOCS3 ratio could be a potential marker for M2 macrophages.^{23–25}

M1 macrophages perform proinflammatory, microbicidal, and tumoricidal functions acting as the effective killers of pathogens due to a high antigen presentation capacity, high expression of receptors, and proinflammatory cytokines.^{26–29} Apart from proinflammatory chemokines and cytokines (see Supplementary Table), they employ inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) to produce NO from l-arginine³⁰ and express the Th1-attracting chemokines.^{22,31}

M2 macrophages demonstrate high phagocytosis capacity, production of extracellular matrix components, angiogenic and chemotactic factors, and IL-10.32,33 Activated M2 macrophages eliminate apoptotic cells, mitigate inflammatory response, and promote wound healing.¹ Moreover, M2 macrophages are thought to be involved in organ morphogenesis, tissue remodeling, and endocrine signaling.^{5,34,35} M2 macrophages stimulated by IL-4 possess an increased arginase expression resulting in arginine-to-ornithine conversion.³⁶ Ornithine is a precursor of polyamines and collagen that promotes tissue regeneration and wound repair. Beyond that, arginase competes with iNOS for arginine, which leads to decreased NO production. However, prolonged activation of M2 macrophage activity may induce tissue damage and fibrosis.³⁷ In particular, M2 macrophages can promote excessive production and remodeling of the extracellular matrix, which can also cause a pathological outcome. It has been shown that fibrosis development in wound healing during chronic schistosomiasis is caused by the uncontrolled activation of M2 macrophages, while inhibiting the IL-4 receptor on M2 macrophages or using antibodies against the IL-4 receptor reduced the degree of fibrosis in the lesion.³⁸

Subsets of M2 macrophages have several specific functional features. M2a macrophages recruit Th1-lymphocytes, eosinophils, basophils, and mast cells.^{22,31} The primary role of M2a macrophages is to mediate the allergy response.³⁹⁻⁴¹ M2b macrophages stimulate migration of eosinophils, Th2lymphocytes, and T-regulatory cells. M2c macrophages play crucial roles in the phagocytosis of the apoptotic cell process.⁴² M2d macrophages are characterized by the increased production of IL-10 and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and low expression of TNF- α and IL-12, which eventually promotes angiogenesis.⁴³

There is a huge variety of markers used for the identification of macrophage population.^{44–54} Examples of surface marker detection by flow cytometry are shown below:

- M1 (CD11b⁺ CD80⁺) and M2 (CD11b⁺ CD206⁺);
- M1 (CD64⁺ CD80⁺) and M2 (CD11b⁺ CD209⁺);⁵⁰
- M1 (CD80, CD86, TLR2, TLR4) and M2 (CD204, CD163, CD206);⁵¹
- M1 (CD45⁺ F4/80⁺ CD86⁺) and M2 (CD45⁺ F4/80⁺ CD206⁺);⁵²
- M1 (CD45⁺ CD11b⁺ F4/80⁺ CD206⁻) and M2 (CD45⁺ CD11b⁺ F4/80⁺ CD206⁺);⁴⁶
- M1 (CD86) and M2 (CD206, CD163);⁵³
- M1 (CD68⁺/CD80^{high}/CD206^{low}), M2 (CD68⁺/CD80^{low}/CD206^{high}), and M0 phenotype (CD68⁺/CD80^{low}/CD206^{low}).⁵⁴

Of note, CD45⁺, CD14⁺, CD11b⁺, CD163⁺, CD19, and CD68⁺ are common markers for human whole-population macrophages.

However, there are several flaws in the M1/M2 paradigm. (1) Dividing macrophages into M1/M2 classes is considered too simplistic as macrophage activation and differentiation are not linear, and each subset has different characteristics and functional roles in homeostasis and affects the outcome of disease development.^{4,11} (2) Nahrendorf and Swirski pointed out the significant differences between the in vitro and in vivo data.55 After a 7-day in vitro incubation of microglia and peritoneal macrophages, they completely lost their tissue-specific gene expression.⁵⁶ Thus, comparing the data obtained from cells in *in vivo* and *in vitro* experiments appears to be too hasty. (3) Various signals in an organism and cellular environment induce functional diversity of the macrophages.^{6,57} Smith et al.⁵⁷ studied the macrophage response to a combined M1 and M2 activation triggered either simultaneously or sequentially. They showed that simultaneous action of LPS, IFN-y, IL-4, and IL-13 induces both M1 marker, CD86, and M2 marker, CD206. Over time, the macrophages lost their expression of CD86 simultaneously displaying an increased expression of CD206.57 This work also demonstrated that macrophage reprogramming to an opposite phenotype is dependent on the initial polarization state and the strength of the secondary signal.⁵⁷ Murine bone marrow–derived macrophages stimulated with LPS + IFN- γ , IL4, or both were analyzed using single-cell RNA sequencing and single-cell secretion profiling. Variability in the negative cross-regulation between certain LPS + IFN- γ -specific and IL-4-specific genes results in cell transcriptome heterogeneity. The authors suggest that increasing the functional

diversity within a single population is one of the strategies employed by macrophages in response to variable environmental cues.⁶

To summarize, when interpreting *in vivo* studies, the M1/M2 paradigm should be used with caution, since it significantly simplifies the way macrophage functional activity is. Some investigators even suggest to use "pro-inflammatory" and "pro-regenerative" terms instead of M1 and M2.⁴⁹

Macrophage polarization during hypoxia *in vitro*

Hypoxia is a condition characterized by insufficient oxygen supply in tissues. Discussing data on *in vitro* hypoxia models (Table 1), we should keep in mind that in human healthy tissues, the physiological normoxia corresponds to the oxygen concentration within the range from 4% (muscle) to 9.5% (kidney, outer cortex).^{58,59} However, in cell culture models, under normoxia, cells are exposed to atmospheric oxygen concentrations (about 20% O_2),⁶⁰ while for hypoxic conditions, cells are exposed to 1% O_2 .⁶⁰ O_2 saturation in solid tumors is known to be within the range of 1–2% $O_2^{59,61}$ which was suggested to induce macrophage migration into the tumor core.^{62,63} Studying the macrophage polarization during hypoxia could shed a light on the mechanisms of tumor inflammation.

Two human glioblastoma (hGBM) cell lines U87 and U251 are known to develop a slightly hypoxic and a severely hypoxic solid tumor, respectively.⁶⁶ Using the cell-derived xenografts established by orthotopic inoculation of U87 or U251 cells into the right caudate-putamen, Leblond *et al.*⁸ showed that hypoxia facilitated the macrophage migration to the tumor with M2 phenotype being more pronounced than M1. The same results were obtained from co-culturing the pancreatic cancer cells (PCC) and macrophages, which promoted M2 polarization.⁶⁸

Under hypoxic conditions, macrophages were shown to express higher levels of growth and angiogenic factors such as VEGF and glucose transporter-1.63,69,70 Hypoxia conditions in tumors induced the anti-inflammatory polarization.54,71,72 In tumors, the macrophages tend to acquire M2 polarization promoting tumor growth due to the production of a large number of mitogenic, angiogenic, and prometastatic cytokines and enzymes, including growth factors (VEGF, fibroblast growth factors-1 and fibroblast growth factors-2, platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), placental growth factor (PGF), and angiopoietin-1).⁷¹ The proangiogenic factor VEGF-A is produced almost exclusively in macrophages in hypoxic areas in human breast cancer,73 which is dependent on the increase of hypoxia-inducible factors (HIF) especially HIF-1α.^{73,74} There is the HIF-1a-dependent expression of additional proangiogenic molecules such as basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF), CXCL8/IL-8, adrenomedullin, and matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9).62 HIF-1 activity was demonstrated to increase the expression of chemokine CXCL12 and its receptor CXC4 (CXCR4) in macrophages, which enhance the adaptation to hypoxia. CXCL12 may contribute to the chemoattraction of monocytes and macrophages toward the tumor hypoxic sites facilitating angiogenesis and promoting

erences	ok ⁵⁹	et al. ¹⁰	lond et al. ⁸
Outcome	cyH induced a proinflammatory phenotype in human Hur M0 macrophages and amplified the proinflammatory Coc phenotype (M1); only a slight influence of hypoxia on M2 macrophages and an increase in IL-8 mRNA expression were observed cyH-induced M0 phenotype and amplified proinflammatory phenotype in M1 macrophages were suggested to be caused by nuclear factor-kB (NF-kB) and c-jun activation Similarly, cyH induced the M1 phenotype in murine M0 macrophages and promoted the macrophages	Macrophage differentiation toward M2 was descreed, while the level of M2 polarization induced observed, while the level of M2 polarization induced by IL-4/hypoxia sonditions was not changed; hypoxia significantly decreased IL-1ß expression in M1 macrophages and increased IL-1ß expression in M1 macrophages and increased the VEGF mRNA levels both in M1 and M2 macrophages Hypoxia decreased the secretion of proinflammatory mediators (IL-1ß, TNF- α , VEGF, and CCL17) into the supermatants from M1-polarized macrophages; the effects of hypoxia were independent of HIF-1 α ; the decrease in levels of proinflammatory cytokines induced by hypoxia was reverted by adding SS203580 (p38-dependent signaling in the proinflammatory cytokine implying the involvement of hypoxia-activated p38-dependent signaling in the proinflammatory cytokine induction ⁶⁵ .	Leb Macrophages infiltrated the tumors originated forom the U251 cell line, and the accumulation of macrophages occurred predominantly in hypoxic regions; the expression of M2 polarization markers in macrophages correlated with hypoxia severity; the authors suggest that hypoxia can induce M2 polarization in M0 and even in M1 macrophages
Markers used	mRNA expression for TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-8, human leukocyte antigen (HLA-DR), CD80, PTGS2, CD206, CCL22, iNOS, Arg-2, MARCO, IFIT 1, MRC-1 Secretion of TNF-α, IL-8, IL-6, IL-1β, macrophage inflammatory protein (MIP-2) Phosphorylation of STAT1, p65 Phosphorylation of Phosphorylation of STAT1, p65 Phosphorylation of STAT1, p65 Phosphorylation of Phosphorylation of Phospho	Surface markers: CD86, CD206 Secretion of IL-18, TNF-α, HLA- DR, TARC, CD163, p38, HIF-1 α , 1 and β-actin VEGF (including the predominant isoforms, VEGF ₁₈₉ , 1 VEGF ₁₈₅ , VEGF ₁₄₅ , VEGF ₁₂₁) and CCL17 and CCL17	Surface markers: CD68, CD14 iNOS and Arg1 immunostaining Nitric oxide production
Hypoxic conditions	Macrophages were incubated in a CO ₂ -independent medium with 4 mM I-glutamine and 3.75 g/L d-glucose <i>Normoxia conditions</i> : 21% O ₂ <i>Chronic hypoxia conditions</i> : 6-h cell incubation under 1% O ₂ , 99% N ₂ <i>Chronic hypoxia (cyH) condition</i> : Four consecutive cycles of 1-h hypoxia (1% O ₂) followed by 30-min reoxygenation (21% O ₂) (6 h) of cell culture	Normoxia conditions: RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1% penicillin–streptomycin, cultured at 37°C with 5% CO ₂ : O ₂ not specified <i>Hypoxia conditions</i> : Incubator with oxygen control containing 1% O ₂ , 5% CO ₂ , and 94% N ₂ , with or without 5 µM SB203580 (an inhibitor of p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK)) was used; after 24- and 48-h incubation, supermatants and cells were collected for further analysis	<i>Normoxia conditions:</i> 20% O ₂ and 5% CO ₂ in an incubator for different time periods (1 g/L glucose DMEM) <i>Hypoxia conditions:</i> A humidified 5% CO ₂ /blatence N ₂ gas mixture in a hypoxic chamber (1% or 0.2% O ₂) for different periods (1 g/L glucose DMEM) DMEM)
Macrophage polarization conditions	For M1 polarization: Macrophages were incubated for 24 h with 10 pg/mL LPS and 20ng/mL rhIFN ^y For M2 polarization: Macrophages were incubated for 48 h with 20 ng/mL rhIL-4 and 20ng/mL rhIL-13	<i>For M0 phenotype</i> : THP-1 cells were differentiated by incubation with 10 ng/ mL PMA for 24h at 37°C. <i>For M1 polarization</i> : M0 cells were incubated with 100 ng/mL LPS and 20ng/mL IFN-Y for 48 h <i>For M2 polarization</i> : M0 cells were incubated with 20 ng/mL IL-4.	 Turnor models consist of an orthotopic injection of hGBM cells into athymic rats (after that macrophage migration and polarization were investigated) Macrophages were isolated from the bone marrow of femora and tibiae of <i>nude</i> mice For M1 polarization: Cells were incubated in the medium (1g/L glucose Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM)) with 100ng/mL LPS for 24h M2 polarization: Cells were incubated in the medium (1g/L glucose DMEM) with 50ng/mL recombinant mouse IL-4 for 24h
Models/cells	Human monocytic THP-1 cells; murine bone marrow-derived macrophages	Human myeloid leukemia THP-1 cells	Two models of hGBM: U87 and U251, known to be non-hypoxic and severely hypoxic, respectively; bone marrow-derived macrophage culture

Table 1. Hypoxia effects on macrophage polarization in vitro.

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(Continued)

	References	et al. ⁵³	Corroyer- Dulmont et al. ⁶⁶	Jeong et al. ⁶⁷
	Outcome	M1 macrophages exhibited a decrease in the M1 markers (CD80 and CCR7) as well as a significant increase in the expression of the M2 markers (CD206 and CD36) under hypoxic conditions, (CD206 and CD36) under hypoxic conditions, indicating that hypoxic M1 macrophages switched to the M2 type; IL-12, TNF-α, IL-6, and IL-10 secretion was significantly reduced, while production of proangiogenic mediators, CXCL8 and OPN, was elevated; hypoxia induced a significant upregulation of CD206 and CD36 in M0 and M2 macrophages; hypoxia induced a substantial downregulation of CD80 and an increase in the CXCL8 level in M2 macrophages, while it caused a decreased IL-12, IL-6, and IL-10 secretion as well as an increased inportant role of the hypoxic environment as a direct trigger of human macrophage polarization toward the M2 activation state	miR-301a-3p was highly expressed in hypoxic pancreatic cancer cells and enriched in hypoxic pancreatic cancer cell-derived exosomes; exosomes isolated from PANC-1 and BxPC-3 cells cultured under hypoxic conditions promote M2 activation of macrophages <i>in vitro</i>	H/R upregulated M1 phenotype indicated by the release of IL-6, TNF- α , and IL-1β, both in BV2 microglial cells and in BV2 microglial cells and in BV2 microglial cells and in BV2 microglial supermatants; furthermore, H/R injury triggered the expression of M1-related mediators such as IL-6, TNF- α , and IL-1β ASK1 was involved in macrophage polarization; ASK1 inhibition induced by the NODI-1 drug reduced the expression and release of M1- associated factors and, vice versa, elevated the expression and release of M1- associated factors after H/R; at the transcription level, ASK1 inhibition suppressed the expression of M1-associated genes and augmented M2-associated genes
	Markers used	Flow cytometry: CD14, CD80, CCR7, and TREM-1; CD68, CD206, CD86, HLA-DR, CD36 <i>ELISA</i> : IL-12, TNF- α , IL- 1 β , CXCL8, IL-6, and IL-10; osteopontin; CCL18; CCL24; and TGF- β 1	CD206, CD163, IL-10, TGF-β, and arginase-1; INOS, IL-1β, CD11b, CD68 CD9 (exosome markers)	L-1β, IL-6, TNF-α, IL-10, CD206, and CD40
	Hypoxic conditions	<i>Normoxia conditions</i> : 20% O ₂ for 24h <i>Hypoxic conditions</i> : Cell incubation and handling in a sealed anaerobic workstation incubator, incorporating a gas mixing system and flushed with a mixture of 1% O ₂ , 5% CO ₂ , and 94% N ₂ for 24h	<i>Normoxia conditions</i> : 5% CO ₂ with RPMI 1640 medium containing 10% FBS; O ₂ and duration are not specified <i>Hypoxia conditions</i> : Incubation in a hypoxia cell incubator with 1% O ₂ ; duration is not specified	To induce oxygen and glucose deprivation, microglia and macrophage cultures were washed with PBS and cultured in a deoxygenated glucose-free balanced solution containing 5.36 mM KCl, 0.81 mM NaH ₂ PO ₄ , 0.81 mM MgSO ₄ , and 116 mM NaCl for 4 h in an anaerobic chamber; after 4 h, the cells were washed with PBS, the culture media was replaced, and cells were incubated for 24 h with 5% CO ₂
	Macrophage polarization conditions	For M0 phenotype: Primary mononuclears were cultured for 6 days with RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal calf serum (FCS) in the presence of 100 ng/mL hM-CSF under normoxic or hypoxic conditions <i>M1 polarization</i> : Culturing M0 for an additional 24 h with fresh medium supplemented with 5% FCS and containing 100 ng/mL LPS from <i>Escherichia coli</i> 0111: B4 <i>For M2 polarization</i> : 20 ng/mL hIL-4	<i>M0 polarization</i> : Human THP-1 monocytes were differentiated into macrophages by an incubation (5% CO ₂ with RPMI 1640 medium containing 10% FBS) in the presence of PMA <i>M1/M2 phenotype</i> was investigated after the experiment	BV2 cells were cultured with RPMI 1640. RAW 264.7 cells were cultured with DMEM high-glucose cultured media; the cultured cells were incubated in a humidified atmosphere under the presence of 5% CO ₂
Table 1. (Continued)	Models/cells	Peripheral blood mononuclear cells are separated as CD14 ⁺ (monocytes)	Macrophages (CD68 ⁺) were differentiated from human THP- 1 monocytes; pancreatic cancer cell lines PANC-1 and BxPC-3	Murine brain microglia (BV2 cell line); murine macrophages (RAW 264.7 cell line)

LPS: lippolysaccharides; TNF-a: tumor necrosis factor-alpha; IL: interleukin; PMA: phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate; IFN-y: interferon-y; TARC; thymus and activation regulated chemokine; VEGF: vascular endothelial growth factor; hGBM: human glioblastoma; CSF: colony-stimulating factor; ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; TGF-ß: transforming growth factor-ß; PBS: phosphate-buffered saline; H/R: hypoxia/reperfusion; ASK1: apoptosis signal-regulating kinase 1.

metastasis.⁷⁴ Based on these data, inhibiting HIF-1 can be employed to enhance the efficacy of angiogenesis inhibitors during anticancer therapy. ^{67,75}

Meanwhile, human monocytic THP-1 cells and murine bone marrow–derived macrophages can switch to the M1 phenotype under hypoxic conditions.⁶⁰ Cycling hypoxia (see Table 1) induced a proinflammatory phenotype in human and murine M0 macrophages and amplified the proinflammatory phenotype (M1) while not affecting M2 macrophages.⁶⁰ Moreover, murine brain microglia (BV2 cell line) and murine macrophages (RAW 264.7 cell line) were shown to acquire M1 polarization upon hypoxia/reperfusion *in vitro*.⁷⁶

Despite the uncovered differences in the macrophage response to hypoxic conditions *in vitro*, hypoxia in tumors is largely thought to cause M2 phenotype. Such macrophages are called protumoural phenotype macrophages. But the question arises: what are the reasons behind the inconsistency of the data on hypoxia effects obtained from the experiments on different macrophage cell cultures? The differences in the effects of hypoxia might lie in the cell-type-specific reactions, and therefore, no unified "hypoxic macrophage phenotype" can be defined.

Macrophage polarization upon IR

Ischemia-reperfusion injury (IRI) is organ damage caused by a limited supply of oxygen (hypoxia) and nutrients as well as the effects of metabolic by-products after the blood flow is restored. IR causes the damage of different organs, including hepatic ischemia-reperfusion (hIR), MI, kidney injury, ischemic stroke (IS), and organ transplantation.

Liver

hIR occurs in many clinical cases, including liver transplantation and vascular control techniques during liver surgery,⁷⁷ and is an important factor affecting postoperative mortality and morbidity.^{37,78} The liver comprises many types of immune cells – resident macrophages (Kupffer cells [KCs]), dendritic cells (DCs), natural killer (NK) cells, and natural killer T (NKT) cells – which play a significant role in hIR.⁷⁹ Upon IR, blood monocytes can infiltrate the liver and differentiate into macrophages⁷⁹ with subsequent M1 and M2 polarization.³⁷

Hypoxia and concomitant metabolic disorders are known to accompany hIR and affect macrophage polarization. There are two main phases of liver IR: the initial stages with predominant M1 type and the late stage of liver IR with predominant M2 type.^{37,78}

hIR-induced tissue damage is mediated by many factors, including high levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS), imbalanced intracellular calcium ion concentrations, changes in cellular pH, and the release of danger-associated molecular patterns (DAMPs).³⁷ DAMPs, such as high-mobility group box 1 (HMGB1), were shown to be significantly elevated in the liver after 1-h IR (Figure 2). HMGB1 binding to TLR4 resulted in KC polarization to the M1 phenotype. Other DAMPs such as histamine, DNA fragments, and ATP could also activate KC M1 polarization through TLRdependent signalization. M1 macrophages accumulated by



Figure 2. Macrophage polarization during the initial stages of hIR. IR damage resulted in cell apoptosis and generating high ROS levels in the liver. Apoptotic cells produced DAMPs such as HMGB1 promoting M1 polarization via stimulating TLR4 and other receptors on macrophages. M1 macrophages further produced ROS and proinflammatory factors which in turn caused liver damage.³⁷ (A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

8 to 72 h after IR^{80} produced the proinflammatory cytokines, TNF- $\!\alpha$, and ROS 81

By 48 to 72h after liver IR injury, an increase in the M2 macrophage population was observed.⁸⁰ M2 macrophages released anti-inflammatory factors such as IL-10 and TNF- β to alleviate injury. IL-10 inhibited the activation of NF- κ B and the proinflammatory factors such as TNF- α , IL-1 β , IFN- γ , and IL-2.^{82,83}

Kidney

Chronic kidney diseases and kidney transplantation are also accompanied by IR injury. As in the liver, M1-type macrophages prevail at the early stage of kidney IR for the proinflammatory cytokines producing. The peak of IL-6 production was observed by 4h after the reperfusion followed by the expression of TNF- α , IL-1 β , and MCP-1 in the injured kidney.⁸³ Ko *et al.*⁸⁴ showed that macrophage depletion reduced kidney damage. However, macrophages are essential for tubular epithelial cell regeneration at the reperfusion stage.⁸⁵ During the later stages of kidney IR injury, macrophages acquire the M2 phenotype and exert regenerative effects.^{86–89}

These data indicate that M1/M2 shift could be harnessed in treating hepatic and kidney pathologies. However, this strategy should be used with caution as M2 polarization is involved in many abnormal repair processes such as interstitial fibrosis and crescent formation.⁹⁰ According to Tian and Chen,⁹⁰ this strategy may have the following pitfalls: (1) as macrophages are highly heterogeneous, dividing them into two groups (M1/M2) is not methodologically cor $rect_{r}^{.91}$ (2) it is likely that the *in vivo* expression of M1 and M2 polarization markers is independent of each other;⁹² (3) in vivo, macrophages comprise the cells derived both from blood monocytes and resident macrophages - therefore, they can possess some additional features;93 and (4) the polarization of M1 and M2 macrophages undergoes dynamic alterations, and adoptively transferred macrophages may undergo polarization switch in vivo.94,95 Thus, no matter this possibility seems to be promising, further research into the continuum of macrophages is needed.

Heart

Ischemic heart pathologies, particularly MI, are characterized by IR of the cardiac tissue. Using mouse model (1-3 post-MI days), M1 phenotype of macrophages was shown to prevail at the first stage of MI. The function of these macrophages included removing the cell debris and degrading the extracellular matrix. After 1 and 3 days post-MI, macrophages upregulate several anti-inflammatory genes: Slfn4, Cd9, Tnip1, and Gpr132.96 After 5 to 7 days post-MI, the accumulation of M2 macrophages was observed. It produced anti-inflammatory, proangiogenic, and repair factors and engulfed the apoptotic cells, thus facilitating neoangiogenesis.97 However, the long-lasting impact of M1 macrophages in the infarcted heart could cause negative effects such as an expansion of the infarct size and scar formation,98 while M2 macrophages facilitated neoangiogenesis and scar repair.99 Genes involved in extracellular matrix reorganization including fibroblast-specific genes like Col1a1 and Postn were activated in macrophages after 7 days post-MI suggesting the impact of macrophages on the extracellular matrix proteins in forming the infarct scar.⁹⁶

M1 to M2 shift during MI was shown to induce myocardial repair;^{100–103} however, researchers still discuss the role of macrophage polarization during MI. Of note, the macrophage phenotypes in healthy and infarcted hearts are much more complex than the phenotypes defined by the M1/M2 polarization paradigm.⁴ For instance, in MI heart, both pro-M1 and pro-M2 stimuli are present, so even a panel of M1/M2 markers does not reflect the in vivo macrophage polarization state.^{96,104} Ma et al. proposed another classification based on post-MI condition explored day by day. They classified macrophages into cardiac macrophages at day 1 cM(MI-D1) post-MI, day 2 cM(MI-D2) post-MI, and so on.⁴⁶ In vitro classification of macrophages could be also based on the used stimuli: cM(IL-4) can be defined as resident cardiac macrophages stimulated with IL-4.46 This idea was supported by the fact that proinflammatory day-1 macrophages did not display all typical M1 features, whereas day-7 macrophages did not display typical M2 features.55,96 A summary of the macrophage polarization during MI is shown in Figure 3 (based on the study of Mouton et al.⁹⁶).

To summarize, the data on macrophage polarization during MI are still insufficient and blurred with inconsistencies. To achieve some consensus, further and more detailed work is needed.

Brain

IS is caused by the blockage of cerebrovascular blood flow. Cerebral ischemia activates microglia and resident macrophages in the brain. After IS, the blood–brain barrier is disrupted, and immune cells such as macrophages, neutrophils, and leukocytes infiltrate the lesion area via the disrupted barrier.^{105–107} Microglia being the safeguard equivalent of macrophages in central nervous system (CNS) possesses the M1/M2 dichotomy (M1 classical proinflammatory state and M2 alternative anti-inflammatory/neuroprotective

state).^{108,109} However, drawing this line of similarity, one should bear in mind that microglia and monocytes/macrophages have different cellular origins. Microglia originates from yolk sac progenitors in the neuroepithelium, while monocytes/macrophages originate from hematopoietic stem cells. There are differences in the expression profiles of these cells. Monocytes/macrophages express CCR2, CD11b, Ly6C, F4/80, and low levels of CX3CR1, ^{65,108} while microglia expresses high levels of CX3CR1, CD11b, and F4/80; low levels of CD45; and no CCR2.⁶⁴ However, both microglia and monocytes/macrophages share similar functions.¹¹⁰ The main markers shared by M1/M2 microglia and macrophages were described in previous works.^{111,112}

Murine models of focal transient cerebral ischemia showed changes in microglia/macrophage polarization at 1 to 14 days of reperfusion.¹¹³ The data indicated that M2 phenotype was dominant at the first stage subsequently shifting to M1.^{111,113} However, the expression of M1-type genes (iNOS, CD11b, CD16, CD32, and CD86) was found to gradually increase over time after 3 days and remain elevated for at least 14 days after brain ischemia. The expression of M2 marker mRNA (CD206, Arg1, CCL22, Ym1/2, IL-10, TGF-β) was induced from 1 to 3 days after ischemia and peaked by 3 to 5 days postinjury. The expression of most M2-type genes began to decrease at day 7 after ischemia and was restored to the preinjury levels by day 14.113 Barakat and Redzic111 reported that cells with both phenotypes were present in the affected area, but their relative amount changed in time (mostly due to M2 macrophages that could acquire M1 phenotype) and was probably dependent on the proximity to the ischemic core. Thus, the microglia/macrophage polarization stages in brain ischemia cannot be clearly defined as they have both M1 and M2 markers (Figure 4).^{109,114}

In the murine model of the middle cerebral artery occlusion, the inoculation of IL-4-polarized BV2 promoted angiogenin expression in the brain. Therefore, microglia cell transfer performs a protective function during IS via promoting angiogenesis.¹¹⁵ The cytokine IL-4 was shown to improve the long-term neurological outcomes after the stroke through inducing the M2 phenotype in microglia/ macrophages.¹¹⁶ The latter indicates a possible strategy to decrease the neuronal damage after IS by switching M1 phenotype to M2.^{109,113,115,117}

Although the conversion of macrophage phenotypes *in vivo* during hypoxia/ischemia is very complex, the simplified model assumes the presence of two extreme phenotypes – M1 (proinflammatory) and M2 (anti-inflammatory) – and phenotype switching could represent an approach aimed at alleviating tissue damage and improve tissue repair.

Energy metabolism of M1/M2 macrophages during IRI

The ability of various agents to improve the outcome of ischemic events by targeting macrophage polarization was studied in the works.^{109,112,118} As M1 and M2 macrophages have different energy metabolism, one of the approaches is to alter the macrophage metabolism.^{119–121} In M1 macrophages, the glycolysis rate is elevated, while the tricarboxylic acid cycle and oxidative phosphorylation are attenuated. In M2



Figure 3. The macrophage polarization stages after MI (from the study of Alagesan and Griffin⁹⁵). (A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)



Figure 4. Dynamic changes in microglia marker levels after IS.¹¹¹ The scale indicates the time (days) after ischemia. M1 polarization markers are indicated in red (top panel), and the M2 markers are indicated in green (bottom). (A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

macrophages, the main energy source is oxidative phosphorylation.^{119,122–124} LPS-activated macrophages upregulate the expression of the glucose transporter Glut1,¹²⁵ whereas IL-4activated macrophages increase the expression of lipoprotein lipase and CD36 which mediate the uptake of fatty acids.¹²⁶ Therefore, M1 cells preferentially use glucose as an energy source while M2 consume fatty acids.

HIF1 α is a well-known signaling molecule that induces a metabolic shift toward anaerobic glycolysis.¹²⁷ Elevated lactate production and consequent acidification of the extracellular environment¹²⁷ promote M2 macrophage polarization.¹²⁸ Consistent with these data, M2 polarization was promoted by the lactic acid produced by hypoxic tumor cells.^{127,128}

By day 3 post-MI, the genes related to mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation were shown to be upregulated, indicating metabolic reprogramming, which can also indicate a wound repair status.⁹⁶

Chouchani *et al.* showed that selective accumulation of the Krebs cycle intermediate, succinate, is a universal metabolic signature of ischemia in a range of tissues, and is responsible for mitochondrial ROS production during reperfusion. Fumarate overflow from purine nucleotide breakdown and partial reversal of the malate/aspartate shuttle lead to the reversal of succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) and promote succinate accumulation during ischemia. After reperfusion, the accumulated succinate is rapidly oxidized, driving extensive ROS generation by reverse electron transport at mitochondrial complex I.¹²⁹

Similarly, macrophages after LPS stimulation produce itaconate,¹³⁰ which besides its antibacterial role inhibits SDH in a dose-dependent manner, provoking succinate accumulation.^{131,132} Using exogenous itaconate as well as Irg1–/– mice model, Lampropoulou *et al.* revealed itaconatedependent modulation of macrophage activation through tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle regulation.¹³³ It was hypothesized that itaconate transiently inhibits SDH to gradually "awaken" mitochondrial function that upon reperfusion minimizes ROS production and tissue damage. Thus, itaconate acts as a mitochondrial redox regulator to improve physiological outcomes after IR.¹³⁴

There are multiple mechanisms underlying the influence of metabolism in macrophage activation, and a number of polarizing signals affect the metabolic signaling pathways which coordinate biosynthetic and bioenergetic metabolism involved in macrophage activation.¹²⁴ Furthermore, the functions of macrophages could be modulated by targeting their metabolism.

Modulation of macrophage polarization by targeting energy metabolism

Based on the data on the role of succinate in macrophage activation, it was shown that attenuation of ischemic succinate accumulation by pharmacological agents is sufficient to ameliorate *in vivo* IR injury in murine models of heart attack and stroke.¹²⁹ A similar approach was used by Zhang *et al.*, who showed that 4-week aerobic preoperative exercise significantly attenuates liver injury and inflammation after

IR in mice. Exercise resulted in the appearance of KCs favoring an anti-inflammatory phenotype via metabolic reprogramming. Mechanistically, the exercise-induced release of high-mobility group protein B1 increased the level of the above-mentioned itaconate, which shifted KCs toward an anti-inflammatory phenotype via nuclear factor-2 erythroidrelated factor-2 (NRF2).¹³⁵

Cytosolic acetyl-CoA production also has a direct effect on macrophage polarization, as shown by examining LPSinduced TLR signaling.¹³⁶ The first stage of TLR activation led to the generation of citrate and its conversion to acetyl-CoA in the cytosol. At later stages, itaconate synthesis from citrate by the LPS-inducible gene *IRG1* serves as an anti-inflammatory feedback mechanism. Itaconate synthesis in response to LPS diminishes the expression of several cytokines, including IL-12, IL-6, IL-1 β , and IL-18.¹³³ Alterations in acetyl-CoA content also caused a shift in histone acetylation profile in various LPS-responsive genes.¹³⁶

Pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH) could be an additional target for translational studies to treat chronic inflammatory diseases since it oxidized pyruvate into citrate.¹³⁷ This assumption is based on the finding that LPS-activated macrophages need the stabilization of HIF1 α , which induces expression of pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase 1 that inhibits PDH via phosphorylation.

Calorie restriction is one of the possible ways for modulating metabolism and reducing inflammation,¹³⁸ since obesity might induce insulin resistance and local low-grade inflammation.^{139,140} In murine insulin resistance model established by 60% high-fat diet for 12 weeks, M1 macrophages accumulated in the adipose tissue.¹⁴¹ A decrease in insulin resistance was associated with the reduced M1 and elevated M2 macrophage polarization.¹⁴¹ Under a lowfat diet, eccentric exercise markedly inhibited M1 polarization and activated M2 macrophages in the epididymal fat tissue.¹⁴¹

Orillion *et al.* observed an increase in M1-like tumorassociated macrophages (TAMs) along with a decrease in the M2-like phenotype in the C57BL/6 mice (with subcutaneously tumor transplantation) fed a 7% protein diet¹³² that enhanced the antitumor capacity of macrophages providing the rationale for clinically using this approach during immunotherapy.¹⁴²

The elevated lactate production by tumor cells led to inhibiting the host immune response¹⁴³ and promoted M2 polarization of macrophages under hypoxia.¹²⁸ A ketogenic diet (KD: low-carbohydrate, average-protein, and high-fat diet) was shown to decrease the lactate production by glycolytic tumors and resulted in an improved antitumor immune response¹⁴³ inhibiting tumor growth.¹⁴⁴ KD stimulated oxidative stress in transplanted CT26+ tumor cells and induced M1 polarization of TAMs reducing the levels of HDAC3/ PKM2/NF- κ B 65/p-Stat3 proteins.¹⁴⁴

Spinal cord injury induced the expression of TNF- α and IL-1 β , whereas their levels were reduced in the rats with increased ketone levels. Under KD, iNOS expression (the marker of M1 macrophages) was inhibited while arginase-1 expression (the marker of M2 macrophages) was stimulated.¹⁴⁵ Increased arginase activity reroutes arginine from iNOS and, together with reduced iNOS expression, this

could decrease NO production, thus causing M2 polarization. Therefore, ketogenic metabolism promoted the macrophage polarization toward M2 polarization, inhibiting an inflammatory response, reducing the loss of gray matter, and facilitating functional recovery after spinal cord injury.¹⁴⁵ Note that this effect is the opposite of the anti-M2 effect of KD in tumors. Although the exact mechanism by which the KD provides neuroprotection and M2 macrophage polarization is not fully understood, it has been shown that the lactate level is increased in the CNS during KD or fasting-induced ketosis,^{146–149} which is the inverse to the KD effect in tumors and could explain this controversy.

Thus, macrophage polarization can shift by the influence on energy metabolism. Such pathological process like IRI depends on macrophage polarization during different times after the damage. Considering that calorie restriction and KD induce M2 macrophage polarization that inhibits an inflammatory response, it would be a good strategy for developing a treatment for IRI.

Conclusions

The existing M1/M2 macrophage paradigm has been criticized for its being the oversimplified model of a highly complex phenomenon. However, such rough classification is still useful for studying metabolic alterations in macrophages and their role in inflammation. Like it was discussed already, macrophage polarization changing is observed during IRI at different times after the damage. The concept of macrophage phenotype shifting from M1 to M2, induced by targeting the energy metabolism, might prove useful for developing treatment strategies for IRI.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

FUNDING

The author(s) disclosed receipt of the following financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article: This work was supported by Russian Science Foundation (21-75-30009).

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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental material for this article is available online.

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