Allergy-Immunology Glossary

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Towards a clear designation of some of the terms used in allergology and immunology.

Antigen

Foreign substance that induce specific immune responses or are targets of such responses ¹.

مستضد2

Neoantigen

Antigen acquired after a cell has been transformed by an oncogenic virus³ or by drugs such as heparin resulting in heparin-induced thrombocytopenia⁴ or procainamide causing drug-induced lupus erythematosus⁵. Radiotherapy, also, can induce neoantigen formation⁶. In the same way, environmental pollutants such as hexachlorobenzene produce autoimmune-like effects in humans⁷.

مستضد مستحدث²

Superantigen

An antigen, mostly of microbial origin, so called because of its ability to polyclonally activate large fractions (2-20%) of the T-cell population at picomolar concentrations. In general, the potent immunostimulatory properties of superantigens are a direct result of their simultaneous interaction with the Vb domain of the T-cell receptor (TCR) and the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class II molecules on the surface of an antigen-presenting cell. Staphylococcal enterotoxins are the best known superantigens^{1,8}.

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