Allergy-immunology glossary

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

<table>
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<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<td>Perforin</td>
<td>It is a pore-forming protein directed to the target cells, and secreted and released from the cytotoxic lymphocytes (Tc). The term perforinopathy denotes the range of autosomal-recessive, immune-mediated diseases that are caused by insufficient perforin delivery to the immunological synapse.</td>
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<td>Granzymes</td>
<td>Granzymes or granule secreted enzymes (gzm) are a family of structurally related serine proteases stored within the cytotoxic granules of Tc and natural killer cells. Whereas gzmB is the most powerful pro-apoptotic granzyme, gzmA is the most abundant. Granzymes are necessary for triggering apoptosis of target cells. Pro-apoptotic granzymes diffuse through perforin pores on the plasma membrane of the target cell. Perforin/granzyme apoptosis pathway is the primary signaling pathway used by Tc to eliminate virus-infected and/or transformed cells. A higher number of GzmA+ and GzmB+ cells were found in the airways of fatal asthma cases.</td>
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REFERENCES