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Inflammatory responses to influenza vaccination at the extremes of age

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Inflammatory responses to influenza vaccination at the extremes of age

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Summary

Age affects the immune response to vaccination, with individuals at the extremes of age responding poorly. The initial inflammatory response to antigenic materials shapes the subsequent adaptive response and so understanding is required about the effect of age on the profile of acute inflammatory mediators. In this study we measured the local and systemic inflammatory response after influenza vaccination or infection in neonatal, young adult and aged mice. Mice were immunized intramuscularly with inactivated influenza vaccine with and without the adjuvant MF59 and then challenged with H1N1 influenza. Age was the major factor affecting the inflammatory profile after vaccination: neonatal mice had more interleukin-1α (IL-1α), C-reactive protein (CRP) and granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GMCSF), young adults more tumour necrosis factor-α (TNF), and elderly mice more interleukin-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1RA), IL-2RA and interferon-γ-induced protein 10 (IP10). Notably the addition of the immunostimulant poly I:C increased the profile of inflammatory mediators in aged mice, with a more pronounced increase in CRP and GMCSF. These findings suggest that both the innate and immune responses are age dependent and might be influenced by adjuvants.