



Host control of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is regulated by 5-lipoxygenase–dependent lipoxin production

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Th1 type cytokine responses are critical in the control of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection. Recent findings indicate that 5-lipoxygenase–dependent (5-LO–dependent) lipoxins regulate host IL-12 production in vivo. Here, we establish lipoxins as key chemical mediators in resistance to *M. tuberculosis* infection. High levels of lipoxin A₄ (LXA₄) were detected in sera from infected WT but not infected 5-LO–deficient mice. Moreover, lungs from *M. tuberculosis*–infected 5-*lo*^{-/-} animals showed increased IL-12, IFN- γ , and NO synthase 2 (NOS2) mRNA levels compared with the same tissues in WT mice. Similarly, splenocyte recall responses were enhanced in mycobacteria-infected 5-*lo*^{-/-} versus WT mice. Importantly, bacterial burdens in 5-*lo*^{-/-} lungs were significantly lower than those from WT mice, and this enhancement in the resistance of the 5-*lo*^{-/-} animals to *M. tuberculosis* was completely prevented by administration of a stable LXA₄ analog. Together our results demonstrate that lipoxins negatively regulate protective Th1 responses against mycobacterial infection in vivo and suggest that the inhibition of lipoxin biosynthesis could serve as a strategy for enhancing host resistance to *M. tuberculosis*.

Introduction

Th1-mediated immunity plays a crucial role in host defense against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Cytokines such as IL-12, IFN- γ , and TNF are essential for protection against this pathogen in the mouse model (1–3). Additional evidence suggests that the same cytokines are important resistance factors in the human immune response against mycobacterial infection (4–7). In addition to the Th1 type response mounted over the course of infection, downregulatory mediators may be important players in controlling excessive synthesis of proinflammatory cytokines and subsequent tissue damage and could contribute to the promotion of bacterial survival. Nevertheless, Th2 cytokines such as IL-4 and IL-13 have been described as playing no or only a limited role in in vivo *M. tuberculosis* infection (8–10). Similarly, although in vitro IL-10 production is associated with reduced human disease (11), mice deficient in this important downregulatory cytokine show nearly normal control of *M. tuberculosis* infection (9, 10).

There is a growing body of evidence indicating that a class of lipoxygenase-derived eicosanoids known as lipoxins plays an important role in the immunoregulation of inflammation-associated disease (12). We have previously shown that lipoxin A₄ (LXA₄), a lipid mediator derived locally from 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO) biosynthetic pathways, acts in vitro as a negative regulator of DC IL-12 production triggered by the intracellular protozoan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* (13). An in vivo role for this pathway in host resistance to the same pathogen

was suggested by the observation that *T. gondii*–infected 5-LO–deficient mice succumb as a result of exacerbated proinflammatory responses despite diminished parasite numbers (14).

In the present report, we asked whether 5-LO–dependent mechanisms, and in particular those mediated by lipoxins, also play a role in regulating host resistance to *M. tuberculosis*. To do so, we examined the course of infection- and pathogen-induced cellular immune responses in 5-LO–deficient mice exposed to mycobacteria by aerosol exposure. Our results reveal a major role for 5-LO–dependent lipoxin synthesis in the immune modulation of *M. tuberculosis* infection in vivo and suggest that this pathway may be a potential target for therapeutic intervention in tuberculosis.

Results

M. tuberculosis–infected mice produce LXA₄ in a 5-LO–dependent manner. To assess whether 5-LO plays a role in *M. tuberculosis* infection in vivo, we first measured its products leukotriene B₄ (LTB₄) and LXA₄ in sera from B6, 129S F2/J mice at different time points after aerosol infection (300 CFU/animal). As shown in Figure 1, these eicosanoids were detected at high levels as early as 1 week after *M. tuberculosis* infection. LXA₄, but not LTB₄, synthesis was maintained during chronic infection. Importantly, neither eicosanoid was detected above background levels in *M. tuberculosis*–infected 5-*lo*^{-/-} animals, which confirmed the dependence of LTB₄ and LXA₄ on 5-LO in vivo (Figure 1, A and B). To address the issue of which cell population is responsible for 5-LO activity, we performed immunostaining for the enzyme in lung sections of *M. tuberculosis*–infected WT mice. 5-LO–positive staining was found to colocalize with endothelium (Figure 1C) and F4/80⁺ cells (Figure 1D). Taken together, these results indicate that LTB₄ and LXA₄ are strongly induced during *M. tuberculosis* infection in vivo and suggest that

Nonstandard abbreviations used: LTB₄, leukotriene B₄; 5-LO, 5-lipoxygenase; LXA₄, lipoxin A₄; NOS2, NO synthase 2.

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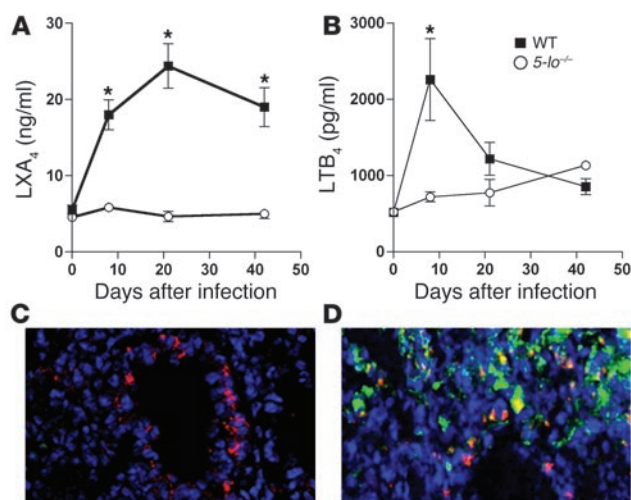


Figure 1

5-LO-dependent LXA₄ and LTB₄ production and 5-LO expression during *M. tuberculosis* infection. WT (B6, 129J F2; filled squares) and 5-LO-deficient (B6, 129J Alox-5; open circles) animals were infected by aerosol exposure with an average of 300 CFU/mouse of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv and LXA₄ (A) and LTB₄ (B) assessed by ELISA in serum at 8, 21 and 42 days after infection. Results are mean ± SE of measurements from 5 animals. **P* < 0.05 between experimental groups. Results shown are representative of 2 independent experiments. (C and D) WT lung sections were stained with anti-5-LO (red) and costained with anti-F4/80 (green), followed by counterstaining with DAPI (blue). (C) 5-LO⁺ endothelium. (D) Several F4/80⁺5-LO⁺ cells infiltrating pulmonary tissue during *M. tuberculosis* infection. Original magnification, ×63.

endothelial cells and macrophages provide the source of the 5-LO required for the synthesis of these eicosanoids.

5-LO-deficient mice display enhanced control of M. tuberculosis infection. To investigate the role of 5-LO in *M. tuberculosis* infection in vivo, we assessed bacterial burdens and tissue histopathology in 5-*lo*^{-/-} and control animals. Lungs from 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice displayed significant reductions in mycobacterial load at both 21 and 42 days after infection when compared with similarly infected WT control animals (Figure 2, A and B). Similar reductions in bacterial counts were observed in spleens from the same animals (data not shown). Acid-fast staining confirmed that fewer mycobacteria were present in the lungs of 5-LO-deficient mice compared with B6, 129S F2/J control mice (Figure 2, C and D, respectively). In addition, lungs from 5-LO-deficient mice infected for 50 days with *M. tuberculosis* showed dramatically reduced tissue inflammation compared with lungs from infected WT animals. Consistent with their high mycobacterial burden 50 days after infection, lungs from WT mice exhibited severe, widespread alveolitis and interstitial pneumonitis as well as areas of necrosis (Figure 3, A and B). In contrast, lungs from similarly infected 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice displayed much less inflammation and little evidence of tissue necrosis (Figure 3, C and D).

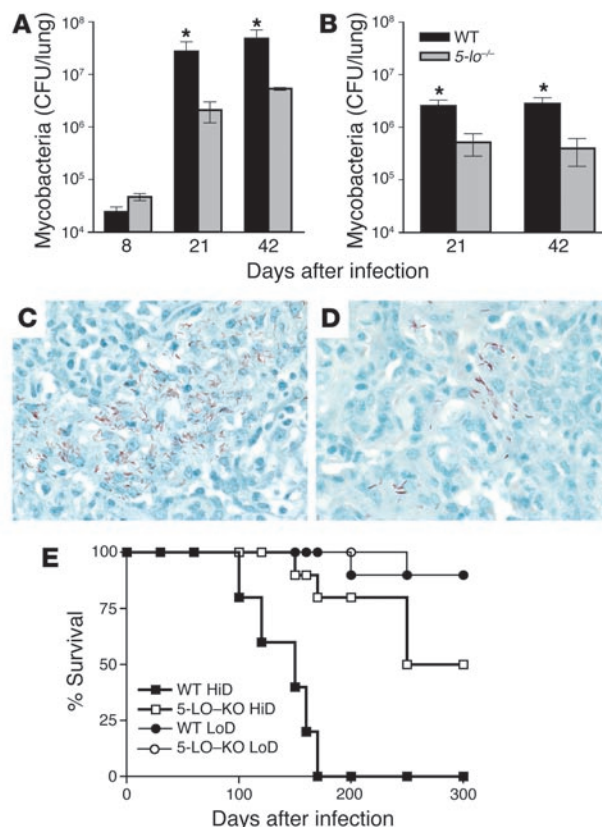
Consistent with their reduced bacterial load, 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice infected with 300 CFU/mouse displayed enhanced survival compared with similarly infected B6, 129S F2/J mice (Figure 2E). In these experiments, WT mice succumbed to aerogenic *M. tuberculosis* infection more rapidly than has been reported previously in mice of this

Figure 2

Increased resistance of 5-LO-deficient mice to *M. tuberculosis* infection. Lungs from WT (black bars) and 5-*lo*^{-/-} (gray bars) mice were harvested at several time points after infection with an average of 300 (A) or 50 (B) CFU/mouse and mycobacterial burdens determined. Results are mean ± SE of measurements from 4 animals. **P* < 0.05. Representative acid-fast bacilli-stained sections from lungs of 50-day-infected WT (C) and 5-*lo*^{-/-} (D) mice (300 CFU/animal) illustrate the reduction in acid-fast bacilli (red staining) in the KO animals. Original magnification, ×63. (E) WT B6, 129S F2/J (filled symbols) and 5-LO-deficient (open symbols) animals were aerogenically infected with an average of 300 CFU/mouse (high dose [HiD]; squares) or with 50 CFU/mouse (low dose [LoD]; circles) (*n* = 10 animals per group) and survival monitored. The results shown are representative of 2 independent experiments performed at each dose.

genetic strain. We reasoned that this was likely a result of the fact that the inoculum (300 CFU) was larger than that (50 CFU) used in prior studies (15). Although the extended survival of 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice infected at high dose argues for their enhanced resistance, we also examined mortality at the more conventional low infectious dose (50 CFU/mouse). In this setting, both 5-LO-deficient and control mice survived at similar rates until 300 days after infection (Figure 2E). Nevertheless, a highly significant reduction in bacterial burden similar to that observed at the higher dose of infection was evident in the lungs of these animals at days 21 and 42 (Figure 2D). Taken together, these results demonstrate that 5-LO promotes both mycobacterial growth and host susceptibility to infection.

5-LO-deficient mice infected with M. tuberculosis show increased expression of proinflammatory mediators. To determine whether the absence of 5-LO affects the proinflammatory responses induced by mycobacteria, we studied the time course of expression of the genes



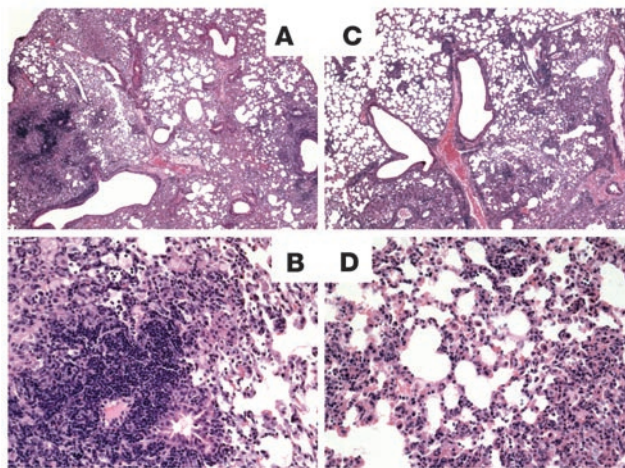


Figure 3

Decreased inflammation in lungs of *M. tuberculosis*-infected 5-LO-deficient mice. Representative H&E-stained sections of lungs from 50-day-infected (300 CFU inoculum) B6, 129S F2/J control (A and B) and 5-LO-deficient (C and D) animals. Note the reduction in inflammatory infiltration and greatly increased alveolar space in 5-*lo*^{-/-} animals (C and D). Original magnification, ×5 (A and C) and ×40 (B and D).

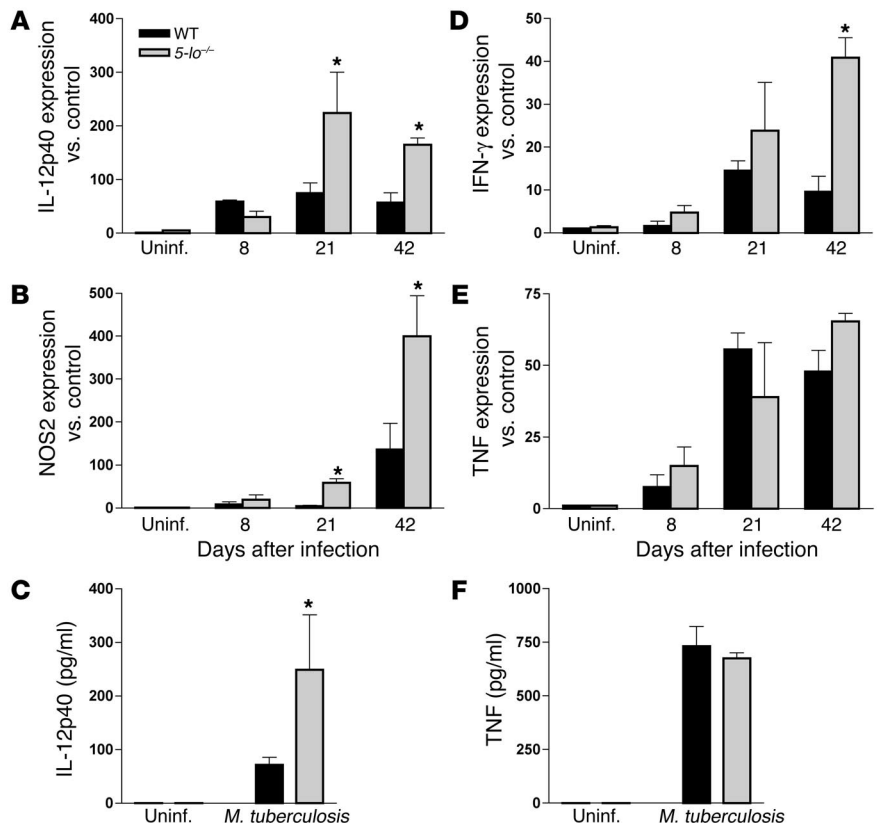
encoding IL-12, IFN- γ , TNF, and NO synthase 2 (NOS2) in the lungs of *M. tuberculosis*-infected animals. Levels of both IL-12p40 and IFN- γ mRNA were found to be significantly elevated in infected 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice compared with their WT counterparts (Figure 4, A and D), consistent with their diminished mycobacterial burdens. Despite the marked differences in pulmonary histopathology (Figure 3, A and B versus C and D), the levels of TNF expression in lungs did not differ significantly between infected 5-*lo*^{-/-} and WT mice (Figure 4E). Importantly, expression of the gene encoding NOS2, an enzyme required for host resistance to *M. tuberculosis* in mice (16), was found to be dramatically elevated in the absence of 5-LO at both 21 and 42 days after infection (Figure 4B). Nevertheless, no differences in IL-10 expression were observed in the lungs of 5-*lo*^{-/-} versus control animals at the time intervals examined (data not shown). To confirm this gene expression data, we assayed IL-12p40 and TNF protein levels in lung homogenates from the same infected animals at day 21 after infection. As shown in Figure 4, C and F, 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice displayed significantly increased levels of IL-12p40 but not TNF. In addition, immunostaining of lung sections was performed in an attempt to identify the cellular source of the increased proinflammatory cytokine. Few CD11c⁺ cells were found to coexpress IL-12p40 in lungs of WT animals (Figure 5A and Table 1), while a higher fre-

quency of CD11c⁺IL-12p40⁺ cells was found infiltrating the lungs of 5-LO-deficient mice (Figure 5D and Table 1). However, not all of IL-12p40 staining was associated with CD11c⁺ cells (green), which suggests that 5-LO regulates IL-12 expression in both DCs and other leukocytes in the tissue infiltrates. In contrast, the expression of TNF and NOS2 was found to be restricted to the F4/80⁺ (macrophage) cell population, and although TNF expression was similar in the 2 animal groups (Figures 5, B and E and Table 1), the frequency of NOS2⁺F4/80⁺ cells was dramatically enhanced in the lungs of the infected 5-LO-deficient mice (Figures 5, C and F and Table 1). These findings both agree and contrast with our previous observations on cell-associated cytokine and NOS2 expression during *T. gondii* infection in 5-LO-deficient mice (14). In that study, we observed enhanced IL-12 production by both CD11c⁺ and CD11c⁻ cells in brain tissue of infected 5-LO-deficient mice but failed to detect significant changes in NOS2 as reported here.

Treatment with an LXA₄ analog reverses resistance in M. tuberculosis-infected 5-LO-deficient mice. 5-LO is involved in the biosynthesis of several eicosanoids, including LXA₄, that are known to mediate local control of inflammation. Therefore, it was critical to formally establish whether the enhanced protection against *M. tuberculosis* infection, elevated level of type 1 cytokines, and lower mycobacterial bur-

Figure 4

5-LO-deficient mice infected with *M. tuberculosis* display increased expression of proinflammatory mediators. WT and 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice were aerogenically infected (300 CFU inoculum), and relative expression of mRNAs for IL-12p40 (A), NOS2 (B), IFN- γ (D), and TNF (E) was determined in the lungs at 8, 21 and 42 days after *M. tuberculosis* infection. To further confirm these observations, we prepared lung homogenates from the same animal groups shown above and determined IL-12 (C) and TNF (F) levels by ELISA. **P* < 0.05. The results shown are representative of 2 independent experiments. Uninf., uninfected.



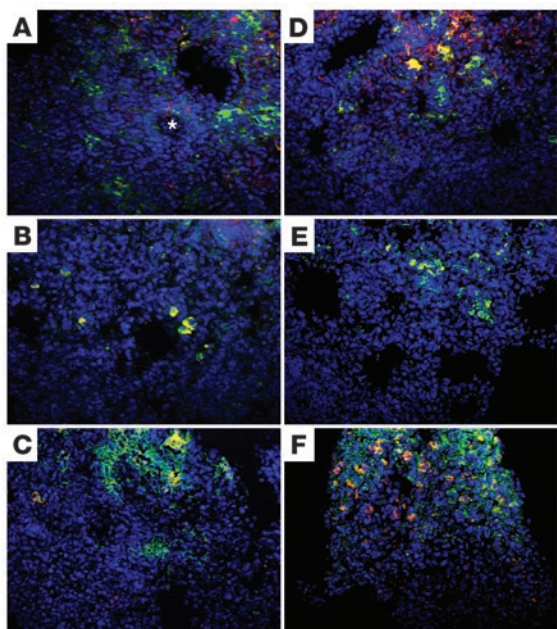


Figure 5

Lung-infiltrating DCs and macrophages express high levels of IL-12 and NOS2 in 5-LO-deficient hosts infected with *M. tuberculosis*. Frozen sections of lungs from infected (300 CFU inoculum) WT (A, B, and C) and 5-*lo*^{-/-} (D, E, and F) mice were double stained with anti-CD11c (A and D) or anti-F4/80 (B, C, E, and F) (green) and with anti-IL-12p40 (A and D), anti-TNF (B and E), or anti-NOS2 (C and F) (red), then counterstained with DAPI (blue). Note the presence of many more CD11c⁺IL-12p40⁺ cells and F4/80⁺NOS2⁺ cells in the tissue sections from 5-*lo*^{-/-} animals. The asterisk in A indicates the presence of multinucleated cells at the center of a granuloma. Representative micrographs (magnification, ×63) from 4 animals per group are shown.

den in 5-LO-KO mice are indeed related to the absence of lipoxin generation during infection. To address this issue, we administered a stable lipoxin analog, ATLa2, to both WT controls and 5-LO-deficient mice during the first 21 days after infection. This eicosanoid analog, created by design modification of the ω end of LXA₄, was shown to have increased half-life in vivo and to inhibit inflammation in several disease models (17–19). As shown in Figure 6, A and B, ATLa2 treatment abrogated the enhanced control of bacterial growth in both lungs and spleens of 5-LO-deficient mice. No alteration of in vivo resistance was noted in *M. tuberculosis*-infected WT controls treated with the LXA₄ analog at this dose. These findings suggest that the levels of endogenous lipoxin present in the infected 5-LO-competent mice are already optimal and that additional lipoxin does not alter the host response to *M. tuberculosis* infection. When examined at 21 days after infection, the *M. tuberculosis*-infected 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice treated with the LXA₄ analog displayed a weakened Th1 response, as evidenced by reduced IFN-γ production by splenocytes restimulated ex vivo with *M. tuberculosis* antigen (Figure 6C) but unaltered TNF levels (Figure 6D). Importantly, ATLa2 had no direct effects on mycobacterial proliferation in vitro, which argues against the possibility that the in vivo activity of this eicosanoid is due to a direct antibiotic effect (data not shown).

Discussion

Proinflammatory cytokines such as IL-12 play critical roles in the induction of host resistance to *M. tuberculosis* as well as other intracellular pathogens. These responses must be carefully regulated to avoid host tissue damage. The antiinflammatory cytokines IL-10 and TGF-β have been implicated as key protein mediators that prevent excess IL-12, TNF-α, and IFN-γ production in intracellular infections. Nevertheless, these downregulatory cytokines appear

to have only limited effects in controlling *M. tuberculosis* replication during infection in animal models (8, 20). In the present study, we report evidence for the role of a novel pathway involved in dampening *M. tuberculosis*-driven proinflammatory immune responses and regulating bacterial growth that involves the 5-LO-dependent production of lipoxins.

Lipoxins such as LXA₄ are biosynthesized by different cell types, including leukocytes, endothelial cells, and platelets by means of transcellular pathways (21). Recently, LXA₄ was shown to have downregulatory actions on several proinflammatory mechanisms including NK cell cytotoxicity (22), leukocyte responses to proinflammatory cytokines (23), and microbial stimulation (14) as well as migration of both neutrophils (18) and eosinophils (24). Interestingly, stimulation of mucosal epithelial cells with lipoxin analogs induced the expression of a bactericidal/permeability-increasing protein, which exhibits antimicrobial activities and enables epithelial cells to engage in active microbial host defense (25, 26).

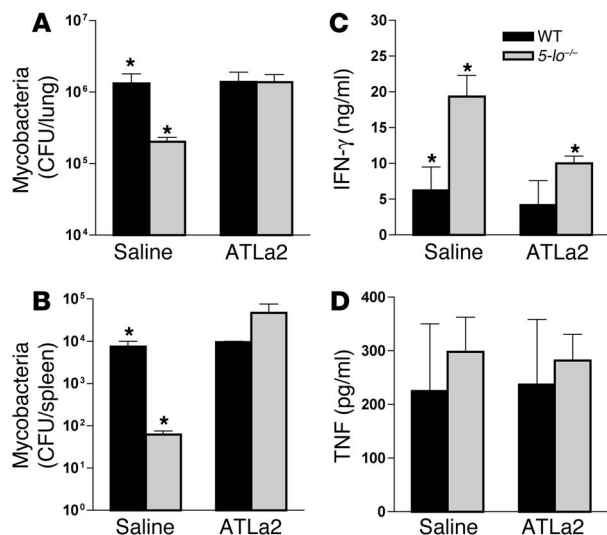
LXA₄ dramatically reduces *T. gondii*-induced IL-12 production by DCs in vitro and by DCs as well as other cells in vivo (13, 14), which indicates a role for LXA₄ in preventing uncontrolled proinflammatory responses. *T. gondii* triggered high levels of LXA₄ (~100 ng/ml) in sera of WT mice, while infected 5-LO-deficient mice produced elevated amounts of IL-12p40. Interestingly, it was recently shown that *T. gondii* synthesizes its own LO that may play a role in increasing local concentrations of LXA₄ (27). In the present report, using an aerosol model of infection with *M. tuberculosis*, we also detected the induction of high levels of LXA₄ as well as the leukotriene LTB₄ in the sera of WT mice. However, LXA₄ and LTB₄ were induced with different kinetics, and only LXA₄ persisted at high levels during chronic infection. Furthermore, we observed high levels of expression of 5-LO in lung endothelium and macrophages during infection. The latter results suggest that these cell populations participate in lipoxin generation in vivo and may be specifically involved in regulating local inflammatory responses during chronic experimental tuberculosis.

Table 1

Higher frequency of CD11c⁺IL-12p40⁺ and F4/80⁺NOS2⁺ cells in lung sections from *M. tuberculosis*-infected 5-LO-deficient versus WT animals^A

Group	CD11c ⁺ IL-12p40 ⁺	CD11c ⁺ IL-12p40 ⁺	NOS2 ⁺	F4/80 ⁺ TNF ⁺	F4/80 ⁺ TNF ⁺
WT	39 ± 6.11	28.66 ± 6.4	101 ± 19.05	16.33 ± 4.8	157 ± 15.77
5- <i>lo</i> ^{-/-}	100.16 ± 6.63 ^B	39.5 ± 4.81	182.66 ± 13.96 ^B	15.33 ± 1.01	135.66 ± 16.44

^AMicroscopic quantitation of fluorochrome-positive cells was performed on the lung sections described in Figure 5. Results are expressed as the number of positive cells per field ± SEM determined from 10 observation fields per slide and 3 slides per mouse (3 animals/group). ^BP < 0.05 vs. WT.

**Figure 6**

In vivo administration of a stable analog of LXA₄ in *M. tuberculosis*-infected mice. WT or 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice were infected by aerosol exposure with *M. tuberculosis* (300 CFU inoculum) and treated 3 times a week by gavage from days 2 to 20 with vehicle or ATLa2 at 100 ng/animal/treatment. Mice were sacrificed, and mycobacterial burdens were assessed in lungs (A) and spleens (B), 21 days after infection. Spleen cell cultures from the same animals were restimulated with purified protein derivative, and 72 hours later, IFN- γ (C) and TNF (D) levels were measured in supernatants by ELISA. Results are the mean \pm SD from 5 animals per group. **P* < 0.05 between groups.

Whereas *T. gondii*-exposed 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice succumbed rapidly to infection, the reduced lipoxin generation in 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice infected with *M. tuberculosis* was associated with enhanced survival at high-dose aerosol challenge, although there were no apparent differences in mortality at the lower inoculum infections. These contrasting outcomes of the 2 infection models may stem from differences in the intrinsic virulence and immune-stimulatory properties of the pathogens in question. *T. gondii* is a highly virulent and fast-replicating microorganism that requires the induction of a potent immune response to protect the host and produce chronic persistent infections necessary for promoting its transmission. *M. tuberculosis*, while also inducing latent infections, replicates slowly and, at least in the mouse model, induces a weaker Th1 response than does *T. gondii*. Hence, in the absence of lipoxin-mediated counterregulation, the ensuing cellular responses are enhanced, triggering immunopathology and mortality in *T. gondii* infection, whereas in *M. tuberculosis* infection, this enhancement results in increased control of bacterial replication. The observed restriction in mycobacterial growth does not appear to be complete, however, since high-dose *M. tuberculosis*-infected 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice eventually began to succumb at 150 days after infection, and this mortality is associated with an approximate log increase in mycobacterial load compared with earlier time points (e.g., day 42) (data not shown). Whether the late death of the infected 5-LO-deficient animals is due solely to increased bacterial burden remains unclear.

Since 5-LO is required for both leukotriene and lipoxin biosynthesis, reconstitution experiments were performed to more directly assess the role of the latter group of eicosanoids in the regulation of mycobacterial growth in vivo. Importantly, administration of

the stable lipoxin analog ATLa2 to *M. tuberculosis*-infected 5-*lo*^{-/-} mice, restored both pulmonary mycobacterial loads and IFN- γ production by purified protein derivative-stimulated splenocytes to levels comparable to those observed in infected WT animals. Although this observation does not rule out the possible participation of other 5-LO-dependent mediators, it demonstrates that a deficiency in lipoxins is sufficient to explain the effects on bacterial growth and host response seen in the infected 5-LO-deficient animals. ATLa2 treatment has previously been shown to reduce inflammatory cell infiltration in a number of different disease models (17–19). Although this subject is not directly addressed in the present article, it is probable that the observed effects of ATLa2 reconstitution in our experiments result from decreased effector cell recruitment into infected lung.

In summary, our findings demonstrate the existence of a novel pathway involved in controlling proinflammatory and Th1 immune responses against *M. tuberculosis* infection in vivo via the generation of 5-LO-dependent lipoxin formation. These observations suggest that the regulation of lipoxin biosynthesis merits further investigation as a potential immunopharmacologic intervention for enhancing the control of mycobacterial replication in tuberculosis patients. In this regard, it should be noted that 5-LO inhibitors are already in clinical trial for asthma, and therefore it may be possible to rapidly design and implement a study testing the efficacy of this strategy for intervention in tuberculosis (28–30).

Methods

Mouse. WT controls (B6, 129S F2/J) and 5-LO-deficient (B6, 129S Alox-5, F2/J) mice were obtained from The Jackson Laboratory and were bred and maintained in an NIAID Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care-accredited animal facility. Female animals 5–8 weeks old were used in all experiments. All experiments were approved by the NIAID Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

***M. tuberculosis* infection.** The *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv strain was passaged through mice, grown in culture once, and frozen in aliquots. Prior to infection, an aliquot was thawed, diluted in PBS, and briefly sonicated in a cup-horn sonicator. Mice were placed in a closed, nose-only aerosolization system (CH Technologies) and exposed for 15 minutes to nebulized *M. tuberculosis*. Two different bacterial doses were employed: 50 and 300 CFU per mouse. To assess mycobacterial load, we harvested lungs and spleens at different times after infection, and tissue homogenates were diluted in buffered saline and cultured on 7H11 agar plates. Colony counts were determined 21 days later.

Histopathology. Lung and spleen tissues were harvested, fixed with neutral buffered formalin, and paraffin embedded. Serial sections were stained with H&E for histopathologic analysis or with Kinyoun's acid fast stain for in situ detection of mycobacteria.

Eicosanoid and cytokine determinations. Serum levels of eicosanoids and cytokines were measured using commercial ELISA kits obtained from Neogen Corp. (LXA₄), Cayman Chemical Co. (LTB₄), and R&D Systems, (IL-12p40, TNF, IFN- γ). For cytokine detection in lungs, tissue was homogenized and centrifuged at 300 g for 7 minutes. Supernatants aliquots were frozen at -80°C for later analysis by ELISA.

Measurement of gene expression in lung. Total RNA was isolated from lungs and real-time RT-PCR was performed on an ABI Prism 7900 sequence detection system (Applied Biosystems) using SYBR Green PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) after reverse transcription of 1 μ g RNA using Superscript II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen Corp.). The relative level of gene expression was determined by the comparative Ct method as described by the manufacturer, whereby data for each sample were normalized to hypoxanthine phospho-ribosyl-transferase (*hprt*) and expressed as a fold change compared



with untreated controls. The following primer pairs were used: for hprt, GTTGGTTACAGGCCAGACTTTGTTG (forward) and GAGGGTAGGCTGGCCTATAGGCT (reverse); *il-12p40*, CTCACATCTGCTGCTCCACAAG (forward) and AATTTGGTCTCACACTCAGG (reverse); *ifn-γ*, AGAGCAGATTATCTCTTTCTACCTCAG (forward) and CTTTTTCGCGCTTGCTGCTG (reverse); *nos2*, TGCCCTTCAATGGTTGGTA (forward) and ACTG-GAGGGACCAGCCAAAT (reverse); *tnf*, AAAATTCGAGTGACAAGCCTGTAG (forward) and CCCTTGAAGAGAACCTGGGAGTAG (reverse).

In situ staining. In situ immunostaining of CD11c, F4/80, 5-LO, IL-12p40, TNF, and NOS2 was performed as previously described (14). In brief, acetone-fixed, frozen sections were incubated with biotin-conjugated antibodies against CD11c or F4/80 (BD). After washing, sections were exposed to streptavidin-conjugated Alexa Fluor 486 (Invitrogen Corp.). Sections were simultaneously double stained with rabbit anti-IL-12p40, anti-TNF, anti-5-LO, or anti-NOS2 pAb, and the reaction was developed with anti-rabbit IgG Alexa Fluor 594 (Invitrogen Corp.), followed by counterstaining with DAPI (Invitrogen Corp.). After washing, the sections were examined microscopically, and the images were recorded using the ApoTome system (Carl Zeiss Microimaging, Inc.).

In vivo lipoxin analog treatment. ATLa2, 15-epi-16-phenoxy-parafluoro-LXA₄-methyl ester (a generous gift from J. Parkinson, Berlex Biosciences, Richmond, California, USA), was used in vivo as a stable lipoxin analog as previously reported (18). It was administered by gavage 3 times a week at a dose of 0.2 ml (100 ng/animal/treatment) as previously described (19). Treatment was started 2 days after infection and continued until day 20. Similarly infected control mice were likewise treated with vehicle alone.

Spleen cell cultures. Spleens from *M. tuberculosis*-infected mice were disaggregated through 40-μm cell strainers, and red blood cells were lysed osmotically. Splenocytes (5 × 10⁶ cells/ml) in RPMI 1640 medium (Invitrogen Corp.) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (HyClone), 10 mM HEPES (Invitrogen Corp.), 2 mM glutamine (Invitrogen Corp.), 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 g/ml streptomycin (Invitrogen Corp.), and 5.5 × 10⁻⁵ M 2-mercaptoethanol (Invitrogen Corp.) were distributed in 96-well plates and stimulated with 10 μg/ml of purified protein derivative (Statens Serum Institut). After 72 hours at 37°C with 5% CO₂ atmosphere, supernatants were collected for determination of IFN-γ levels.

Statistical analysis. Statistical significance was assessed by unpaired Student's *t* test (parametric) or Mann-Whitney *U* test (nonparametric), and *P* < 0.05 was considered significant.

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