Alveolar Epithelial Cells



Type 1 pneumocytes (membranous)

- Flat/squamous
- Nucleus protrudes into the alveolar lumen
- 97% of the alveolar surface
- Do not divide
- Type 2 pneumocytes (granular)
 - Cuboidal
 - Microvilli
 - Secrete surfactant lamellar bodies -
 - Progenitor cell
 - Are phagocytic

Proliferating Type II Cell



Endothelial Cells

- Gas exchange function
- Attenuated, large surface area
 - Highly susceptible to injury, e.g. oxygen, radiation, endotoxin
- Metabolism of endogenous and exogenous compounds
- Progenitor cells

Macrophages

- Alveolar
- Interstitial
- Intravascular pigs, ruminants, cats, horses, marine mammals – similar to Kupffer cells in liver

Macrophages

Play important roles in

- Host defense phagocytosis can eliminate bacteria without inflammation
- Inflammation cytokines release, etc
- Specific receptors
 - Fc for antibody
 - Complement
 - TNF
 - **CD**40
 - Toll-like recognition of microbial components
 - FAS for apoptotic cells
 - "Scavenger"

Macrophages

Alveolar

- Live for a few days
- Can increase in a few hours by cell division and recruitment from interstitium
- Removed by mucociliary escalator
- Interstitial
 - From bone marrow/blood monocytes
 - Live for weeks/months
 - Enter alveolus or removed via lymphatics

Immune System

T-lymphocytes in respiratory epithelium T and B cells in mucosal lamina propria Plasma cells in mucosa produce IgA Dendritic and other APC cells Organized lymphoid tissue (MALT: BALT and NALT) – covered by M-cells (modified epithelial cells)

Draining lymph nodes

Immune System

- Airways IgA prevents attachment and absorption of antigens (immune exclusion)
 Lung IgG (also IgE and IgM) promotes uptake and destruction of inhaled pathogens by phagocytic cells (immune elimination)
 - IgG acts as opsonizing antibody for alveolar macrophages and neutrophils

Additional Components of the Lung

- Other cell types
 - Mast cells
 - Neuroendocrine cells (airway epithelium)
- Collagen
 - Type IV basement membrane
 - Type III increases early after injury
 - Type I increased late after injury
- Elastic fibers

Portals of Entry into the Respiratory System

Aerogenous (air)

Hematogenous (blood) Direct extension Virus, bacteria, Chlamydophila, fungi, toxic gases, and pneumotoxicants Virus, bacteria, fungi, parasites, toxins, and pneumotoxicants Penetrating wounds, migrating awns, bites, and ruptured esophagus or perforated diaphragm (hardware)