

**SEROGROUP Y MENINGOCOCCI (Y:14:P1,2,5) ARE RAPIDLY KILLED IN AN EX VIVO WHOLE BLOOD MODEL OF INFECTION WHEREAS SEROGROUP B MENINGOCOCCI (B:4:P1,7,16) SURVIVE AND GROW TO LOGARITHMIC PHASE.**

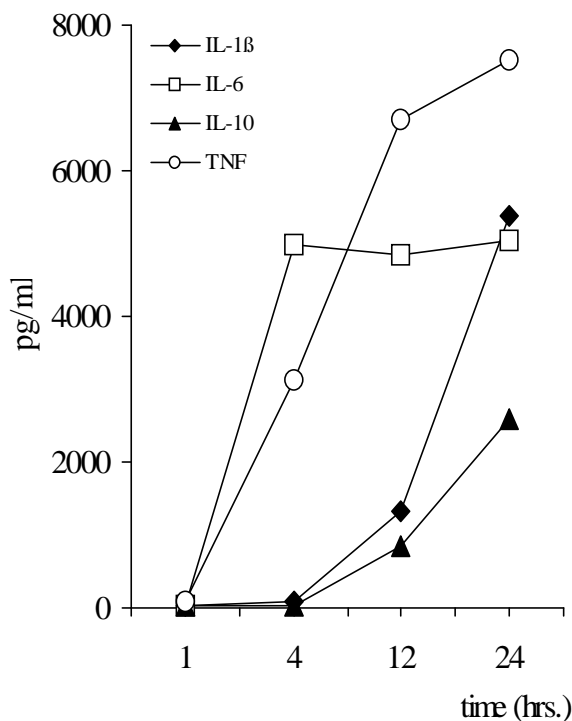
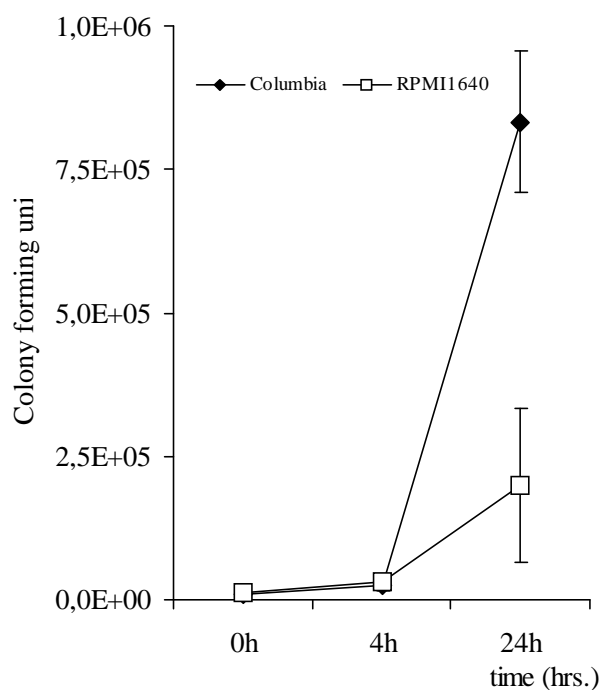
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**published models**

- blood collected in sodium citrate
- 10<sup>6</sup> cfu/mL (dead or alive) used
- incubation for 1 or 2 hrs.
- shaking at 9 rpm
- Mc cultured on GC/Isovitalex

**our model**

- blood collected in ammonium heparin
- 10<sup>4</sup> cfu/mL (alive) used
- incubation for 24 hrs.
- shaking at 250 rpm
- Mc cultured on Columbia, GC/Isovitalex or in liquid cell culture medium



**Results:** loss of neutrophils between 4 and 24 hrs of incubation with B-meningococci but not with Y meningococci.

**Conclusions:**

**general:**

model reflects the *in vivo* situation during septicemia fairly good (cytokine release, neutropenia)

suitable for the study of microbial pathogenic pathways during septicemia

**meningococci specific:**

serogroup specific differences in this model concerning host immune response