Abstract

B-1 lymphocytes are specific type of B cells, development of witch occurs primarily in neonatal period of life. Later, the population is maintained through self-renewel. B-1 lymphocytes differ from classic folicular B lymphocytes in development from a distinct progenitor, expression of specific surface markers and production of polyreactive natural immunoglobulins. Since the discovery linking B-1 lymphocytes to the development of autoimmune diseases there was a shift in perspective on the B-1 lymphocytes and revaluation of the known facts. The aim of this thesis is to present a summary of current knowledge about B-1 lymphocytes, mechanisms of their effect on the development of autoimmune diseases and to outline the possible application of these findings in therapeutical practice.

Key words: B-1 lymphocytes, autoimmune diseases, lupus, leukemia, SLE, B-CLL