

Interactions Between α -hemolysin and the Respiratory Mucosa

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DESCRIPTION OF WORK

- ◆ α -hemolysin is an exotoxin known to form pores in several cell types, however, its effects on bronchial epithelial cells is unknown.
- ◆ Immortalized bronchial epithelial cells were exposed to purified staphylococcal α -hemolysin for 24 hours then viewed using SEM to determine the effects of α -hemolysin on the epithelial cell surface.

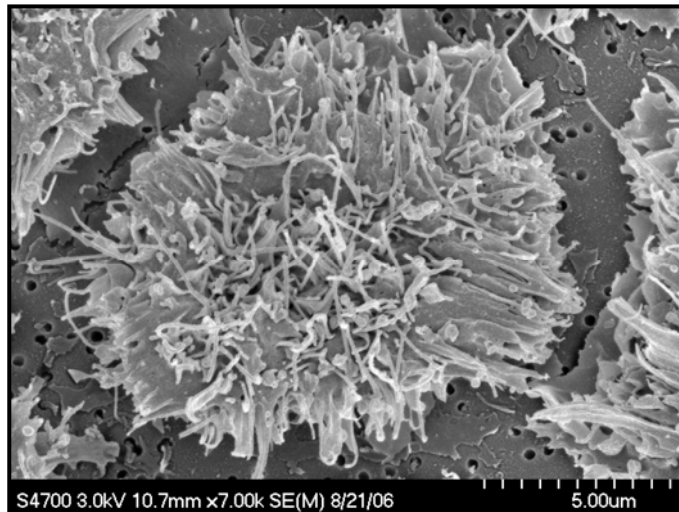


Figure 1. SEM imaging of immortalized bronchial epithelial cells

MAJOR OBSERVATIONS

- Exposure to α -hemolysin induces membrane damage and cell sloughing in immortalized bronchial epithelial cells.

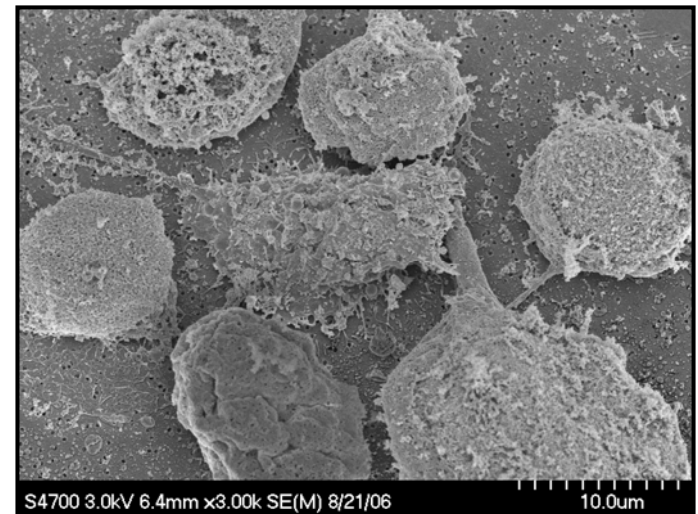


Figure 2. SEM image of immortalized bronchial epithelial cells exposed to α -hemolysin (1ug/ml) for 24 hrs