Reduced polyfunctional T cells and increased cellular activation markers in adult food allergy patients

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Supplementary methods

Blood samples and preparation of PBMC

Blood was drawn into pyrogen-free vacuum blood collection tubes without any additives or with EDTA as anticoagulant. Blood in tubes without additives was allowed to clot for at least 1 h before centrifugation at 800 x g for 10 min at room temperature (RT), and serum was collected and stored for later analyses of total IgE, total IgG4, sIgE (stored at -20°C), and cytokines (stored at -80°C).

EDTA blood was diluted with an equal volume of physiological saline (PBS) within 2 hours after collection. PBMCs were isolated by density gradient centrifugation using Ficoll-Paque PLUS [GE Helthcare Bio-Sciences AB, Uppsala, Sweden] at 800 x g for 20 min at RT. Mononuclear cells were carefully removed and transferred to 50 ml sterile tubes. Platelets were removed by mixing gently with PBS, centrifugation at 250 x g for 10 min at RT before discarding the supernatant. After resuspension in PBS, cells from the same donor were pooled, viable cells were counted, and the washing step was repeated. After slowly adding ice-cold foetal calf serum (FCS) with 20%

dimethylsulphoxyd (DMSO, Sigma-Aldrich), cells were frozen in a CoolCell[™] Freezing Container [Sigma-Aldrich] at -80 °C for 16-24 h before transferring to liquid nitrogen for storage.

Mass Cytometry

Antibodies and reagents

Forty-two pre-conjugated metal-tagged antibodies were obtained from Fluidigm [Fluidigm, CA, USA] while three purified monoclonal antibodies targeting IgG, IL-10, and IL-13 were obtained from BioLegend [BioLegend, CA, USA] and conjugated in house using Maxpar® X8 Antibody Labelling Kits [Fluidigm] according to the manufacturer's instruction. Based on titration performance, the in-house conjugated antibodies were diluted in Candor PBS-based Antibody Stabilization solution [Candor Biosciences, Germany] and stored at 4 °C. The list of antibodies used is presented in Table 2.

Thawing of PBMC

For each participant, cryopreserved PBMC were rapidly thawed at 37 °C in a water bath, transferred into a 50 ml Falcon[™] tube [Fisher] and 9 ml of prewarmed benzonase medium (RPMI [Fisher], 10 % FCS, 1 % penicillin/streptomycin [PAA Laboratories GmbH], 25 U/ml benzonase [Sigma-Aldrich]) were added gently. Cells were pelleted (300 x g, 10 min, RT), resuspended gently in 10 ml benzonase medium, and again pelleted (300 x g, 10 min, RT), resuspended gently in 10 ml benzonase medium, and again pelleted (300 x g, 10 min, RT), cells were then washed in cell culture medium (CCM; RPMI, 10 % FCS, 1 % penicillin/streptomycin) (300 x g, 5 min, RT), counted, and cell numbers were adjusted to 5 x 10⁶ viable cells/ml in CCM. 3 x 10⁶ cells (600 µl) were transferred into two Corning[™] Falcon[™] round-bottom polystyrene tubes [Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Norway] and were left to rest overnight in a CO₂-incubator at 37 °C at 5 % CO₂.

Sample preparation unstimulated cells - Panel 1

All centrifugations were performed at 300x g for 5 min at RT unless otherwise specified.

One vial of PBMC per participant was pelleted and washed in 3 ml PBS. Cells were resuspended in 300 µl PBS with 5 µM Cell-IDTM Cisplatin [Fluidigm] for viability staining and incubated for 5 min at RT. After incubation, cells were washed in 1.5 ml Maxpar® Cell Staining Buffer [CSB; Fluidigm] and subsequently stained with 50 µl antibody cocktail, containing 0.5 µl of each of the 34 Panel 1 antibodies (Table 2) in CSB, for 30 min on ice. Cells were then washed twice with 2 ml CSB and thereafter 1 ml of 1x iridium-containing intercalator solution (4000x Cell-IDTM Intercalator-Ir [Fluidigm], diluted 1:4000 in Maxpar® Fix and Perm Buffer [Fluidigm]) was added to identify nucleated cells. Cells were left overnight at 4 °C. The next day, cells were washed twice with 2 ml PBS (800x g, 5 min, RT) and kept pelleted at RT until CyTOF data acquisition.

Sample preparation stimulated cells - Panel 2

All centrifugations were performed at 300x g for 5 min at RT before fixation and at 800x g after fixation. PBMC in the second vial were stimulated in 0.6 ml CCM supplemented with 20 ng/ml PMA [phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate; Sigma-Adrich], 1 µg/ml ionomycin [Sigma-Aldrich], and 10 µg/ml BFA [brefeldin A; Biolegend] for 4 h at 37 °C in a CO₂-incubator. Cells were then pelleted and washed in 3 ml PBS. Next, cells were resuspended in

300 μ I PBS with 5 μ M Cell-IDTM Cisplatin and incubated for 5 min at RT. After incubation, cells were washed in 1.5 ml CSB, subsequently stained with 50 μ l surface antibody cocktail, containing 0.5 μ l of each of the 17 Panel 2 surface antibodies (Table 2), in CSB for 30 min on ice. Cells were then washed twice with 2 ml CSB before fixated by adding 1 ml fix solution (Maxpar® Fix I Buffer (5x) [Fluidigm] diluted 1:5 in PBS] and incubated for 20 min at RT. Afterwards, cells were washed in 1 ml PBS and subsequently permeabilized by adding 1 ml ice-cold MeOH and left overnight at -20 °C. The next day, cells were rehydrated by washing first with 1 ml PBS and then with 2 ml Maxpar® Perm-S Buffer [Fluidigm] prior to staining with 50 μ l intracellular antibody cocktail containing 0.5 μ l of each of the 11 Panel 2 intracellular antibodies (Table 2) in Maxpar® Perm-S Buffer, for 30 min at RT. Cells were washed twice with 2 ml CSB before 1 ml of 1x iridium-containing intercalator solution was added and incubated 20 min at RT. Subsequently, cells were washed twice with 2 ml PBS and kept pelleted at RT until CyTOF data acquisition.

Data analyses

Bead-normalized files were analyzed following two complementary approaches in Cytobank [Cytobank Inc.]. Living intact single cells were selected before downstream analysis, based on DNA content and event length as Ir191⁺ Ir193⁺ CD45⁺ Cisplatin⁻ events from which EQ beads and double positive CD3⁺CD14⁺ and CD3⁺CD19⁺ events were excluded.

In the first, supervised approach, cell subsets were identified using a manual gating strategy to immunophenotype cells with canonical cell surface markers and to assign functional attributes (e.g., activation state or cytokine production). Cell subpopulations and the markers used for their identification are presented in Table 3. The second approach applied the CITRUS algorithm (cluster identification, characterization, and regression (Cytobank)). CITRUS first performs an unsupervised hierarchical clustering to identify clusters of cellular populations within the overall dataset, displaying a hierarchy of phenotypically related cell clusters. Next, biologically relevant features (i.e. relative cell abundance or median marker expression) of these clustered populations are calculated per sample, and correlative (SAM) or predictive (PAMR) methods are used to identify the cell clusters (populations) that differ significantly between the patient groups with regard to cell abundance or median marker intensities (15). CITRUS analysis was performed on living intact single cells with the default configuration (arcsinh cofactor = 5, normalize = "global", down-sampling events = 3000, downsampling exclusion percentile = 0.01, target number of clusters = 250, maximum number of clustered events = 50000) and a 2 % cutoff for cluster size. For unstimulated cells (panel 1), clustering was performed on i) all 33 markers and ii) 25 phenotyping markers excluding the functional/activation markers (CD23, CD25, CD28, CD69, CD123, CD134, CD371, and HLA-DR). For stimulated cells (panel 2), clustering was performed using all 28 markers except CCR7, since only half of the samples contained CCR7 due to an error. All CITRUS analyses were repeated twice to assure reproducibility.

The multiple testing permutation procedure (SAM), with a false discovery rate of 0.05 were used to identify cell populations differing significantly between groups. For these populations, pairwise comparison between the cell abundance and mean marker intensities in the three groups (healthy donors, IgEpos, and IgEneg food allergic subjects) were performed by exporting the data and using the Kruskal-Wallis test and Dunn's multiple comparison

post-hoc test in GraphPad Prism 5 [GraphPad Software, Inc.]. P values of less or equal than 0.05 were considered statistically significant and denoted as follows: * $P \le 0.05$, ** $P \le 0.01$, *** $P \le 0.001$, and **** $P \le 0.0001$. Results were visualized in box plots prepared by CITRUS.

The PAMR results were used for verification purposes.

Phenotype characterization of the significant cell clusters was performed based on histograms provided by the software for each marker, where the red histograms show the expression of the marker in the cluster and blue the expression of the marker in the background clusters. Presented box plots, showing cell abundance or median marker intensities for each individual as well as group median and quartiles, were also provided by the Cytobank software.

For data visualization, viSNE (visualization of t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbour Embedding) analysis for stimulated cells (panel 2) was performed for all participants with the default configuration (seed: (random), # iterations: 1000, perplexity: 30, theta: 0,5). All 28 markers (excluding CCR7) were used for clustering and 100.000 events were sampled equally. The major immune cell populations were identified based on marker expression denoted in Table 3.

Supplementary tables

Supplementary Table I. Serum levels of total and specific IgE and IgG4 and of IL-6, IL-8, TNF- α , and MCP-1 measured in serum collected at time of the study.

Bold denotes positive (> 0.35 kU/L) sIgE levels in serum.

	Tot-IgG4		Tot-IgG4/ Tot-IgE ratio	/	S	Speci	fic Ig	Eto	the a		jens i U/I)	n the	e star	ndaro	d par	nel		Additional positive food allergens ²	positive airway	IL-6	IL-8	TNFa	MCP-1
	(ng/ml)	(ng/ml)		Milk	Eaa	Wheat	Pea	Soy	Peanut	Fenugreek	Hazelnut	Celery	Cod	Salmon	Shrimp	Birch ⁴	Timothy ⁴	(kU/L)	(kU/L)	(pg/ml)	(pg/ml)	(pg/ml)	(pg/ml)
lgEneg	donors					1	1											1					
N1	118817	3.36	35404	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	neg	neg			5.3	5.03	5.46	307.07
N2	3373311	22.15	152280	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	neg	neg			0	2.58	2.05	303.46
N3	307710	121.58	2531	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	neg	neg			0.46	0.37	3.74	226.5
N4	673516	9.89	68114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	neg	neg			4.11	2.66	2.8	271.13
N5	4623546	7.08	653043	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	neg	neg			0	12.21	1.09	337.9
N6	101705	68.88	1477	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	neg	neg			1	1.65	7.9	94.99
N7	1363093	7.08	192473	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	neg	neg			0.2	1.69	4.02	364.48
N8	5140192	5002.00	1028	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	neg	neg			0.41	2.27	2.79	48.99
N9	574434	72.08	7969	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	neg	neg			0.81	2.9	3.48	480.6
Group median	673516	22.152	35404	0.02	0	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02					5.3	5.03	5.46	307.07
IgEpos	donors																						
P1	329644	162.83	2024	0.04	0.1	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.58	0.03	0.01	0.06	0.01	1.1	1.2		cat 5.2, dog 0.91	0	2.71	0.87	217.12
P2	1794944	224.84	7983	0.02	0	0.17	0.02	0.03	0.11	0.08	0.41	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.05	3.8	5.9		cat 2.8, dog 10.0, horse 1.5, mugw. 1.38	0.09	3.23	2.59	135.56
P3	2064518	24.88	82989	0.06	0	0.71	0.75	0.29	1.27	0.11	1.74	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.01	2.23	0.74		mugw. 0.87	0.31	1.58	4.76	210.4
P4	1561817	210.32	7426	0.05	0.1	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.18	0	9		mugw. 0.36, dog 2.5	0	0.01	2.09	169.74
P5	841217	125.01	6729	0.02	0	0.03	2.85	2.31	0.47	0.19	6.42	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	4.8	0		cat 0.36	1.09	2.95	2.87	139.28
P6	2107904	6.85	307768	0.01	0	0.02	0.01	0	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0	0	chicken 2.76		1.56	1.06	2.04	162.42
P7	590877	1257.77	470	0.07	0.2	0.23	0.03	0.04	0.11	0.1	3.72	0.09	0.03	0.03	0.09	16	7.59		cat 2.0, dog 1.9, horse 0.78, mugw. 1.6	0	1.63	2.82	206.72
P8	2133637	934.63	2283	0.05	0.1	0.26	0.05	0.1	0.9	0.38	3.85	2.04	0.02	0.01	0.02	17.2	21.9	chili 1.2, parsley 1.6	cat 39, dog 6.1, horse 1.0, mugw. 21.8	2.9	1.62	3.27	238.65
P9	1170620	3678.71	318	0.09	0.1	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	1.33	0	0	lupine 4.2	HDM 4.17	0	1.09	1.76	122.96
P10	239241	1331.59	180	0.03	0	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.5	0.11	6.35	0.38	0.01	0.02	0.03	20	2.4		cat 0.45, dog 1.7, horse 2.6	3.64	2.1	4.95	137.03
P11	6115659	5002.00	1223	0.11	0.1	11.5	42.1	12.5	4.83	21.8	8.06	0.13	0.03	0.04	0.29	14	24		cat 11.0, dog 1.1, horse 0.8, HDM 9.0	0	0.86	1.48	125.82
		224.836		1	1	1	1		0.11		1					1	1						

Group median	1157307	122.003	13763	0.02	0	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01			0	2.155	2.02	177.48
	1157307	24.65	46953	0.02	0	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.05	0	0	0.01	0.02	0.01	neg	neg	0	1.61	1.45	116.12
	650300	154.77	4202	0.13	0	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.05	0	0.01	0	0.02	0.01	neg	neg	0	2.55	2.46	149.32
	922757	138.69	6653	0.03	0	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.07	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.02	neg	neg	0	1.44	1.58	164.36
	1860022	122.00	15246	0.03	0	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	neg	neg	0	2.16	2.53	223.59
	3249888	236.14	13763	0.02	0	0.02	0.01	0	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	neg	neg	4.11	3.31	3.18	340.86
	5916195	107.67	54946	0.02	0	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.08	0.01	0.01	0	0.01	0.01	neg	neg	0	2.1	1.32	190.6
	18065	5.03	3589	0.01	0	0.02	0.01	0	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.01	0	0.01	0.01	neg	neg	0	2.15	1.4	125.77
	n.a	n.a.	n.a.	0.02	0	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.01	n.a.	0.01	0.02	0.01	neg	neg	0	3.61	4.64	233.2

Supplementary Table II. Significance levels, group median, and median marker intensity or cell abundance range for each group of participants.

ctr/+ denotes the comparison between the control and the IgEpos allergy group, ctr/- denotes the comparison between the control and the IgEneg group, +/- denotes the comparison between the IgEpos and IgEneg allergy groups, respectively. * denotes $P \le 0.05$, ** denotes $P \le 0.01$, **** denotes $P \le 0.001$, **** denotes $P \le 0.0001$

A) Median marker intensities in the unstimulated cells

B) Cell abundance in the stimulated cells

C) Median marker intensities in the stimulated cells

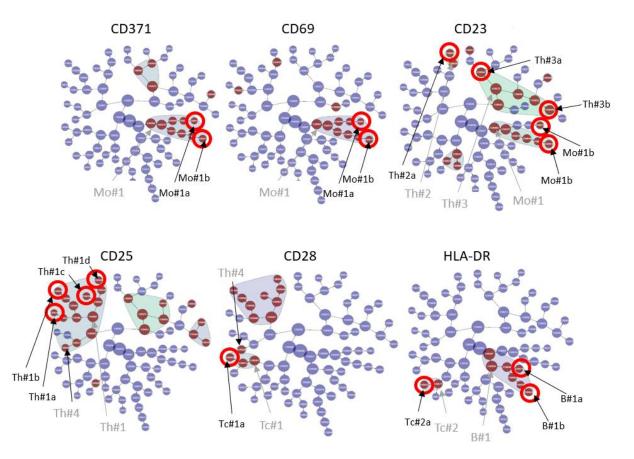
								Range (min. to max.)						
Cluster		Marker	Si	gnifican	ce	Medi	an marker int (median)	ensity	c	tr	lgE	pos	IgE	neg
Parent	Child		ctr/+	ctr/-	+/-	ctr	IgEpos	lgEneg	min	max	min	max	min	max
Mo#1		CD371	**	***		2.87	3.25	3.41	2.06	2.99	2.97	3.59	3.03	3.73
	Mo#1a	CD371	**	**		3.04	3.33	3.29	2.71	3.08	3.10	3.64	3.04	3.76
	Mo#1b	CD371	**	***		2.81	3.26	3.25	2.25	2.93	3.02	3.47	2.96	3.68
Mo#1		CD69		**		1.53	2.06	2.04	1.03	1.91	1.38	2.62	1.75	3.17
	Mo#1a	CD69	*	*		1.50	2.06	2.20	1.01	1.82	1.36	2.47	1.12	3.12
	Mo#1b	CD69	*	**		1.53	2.19	2.15	0.93	1.78	1.56	2.57	1.88	3.32
Mo#1		CD23		**		0.21	0.03	0.00	0.12	0.34	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.10
	Mo#1a	CD23	**	***		0.11	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.25	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.04
	Mo#1b	CD23		**		0.32	0.16	0.08	0.20	0.50	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.21
Th#1		CD25	***	*		1.24	1.85	1.75	1.15	1.46	1.43	2.09	1.41	1.99
	Th#1a	CD25	*			0.83	1.11	1.02	0.27	1.06	0.92	1.77	0.46	1.47
	Th#1b	CD25	***	*		1.53	2.28	1.98	1.34	1.53	1.66	2.28	1.51	1.98
	Th#1c	CD25	**			1.09	1.53	1.39	0.99	1.46	1.14	1.83	0.98	2.17
	Th#1d	CD25	*	*		1.13	1.44	1.42	0.54	1.35	0.91	1.60	1.17	1.92
Th#2		CD23	****	***		0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
	Th#2a	CD23	***	****		0.08	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.13	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00
Th#3		CD23	****	****		0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Th#3a	CD23	****	****		0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Th#3b	CD23	***	**		0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
Th#4		CD25	**		*	1.77	2.31	1.64	1.09	2.06	1.46	2.74	0.63	2.29
Th#4		CD28	*			3.51	3.81	3.55	3.07	3.71	3.39	4.16	2.69	4.33
Tc#1		CD28	**	*		3.07	3.42	3.36	1.80	3.23	2.99	3.68	2.70	3.81
	Tc#1a	CD28	**	*		3.21	3.59	3.56	2.69	3.38	2.95	3.94	3.16	3.93
Tc#2		HLA-DR	*			0.72	1.26	0.96	0.35	1.14	0.60	2.16	0.52	2.02
	Tc#2a	HLA-DR	*			0.69	1.34	0.97	0.34	1.05	0.59	1.97	0.00	2.07
B#1		HLA-DR	**			5.28	5.98	5.65	4.93	5.49	5.25	6.39	5.04	6.25
	B#1a	HLA-DR	**			5.32	5.99	5.61	4.97	5.52	5.29	6.41	5.04	6.16
	B#1b	HLA-DR	*			5.24	5.95	5.61	4.87	5.52	5.20	6.39	5.05	6.32
	-	1	I			-			1					

Clus	Cluster		Significance			idance (me	edian)	c	tr	lgE	pos	IgEneg		
Parent	Child	ctr/+	ctr/-	+/-	ctr	IgEpos	IgEneg	min	max	min	max	min	max	
Th			*		0.0616	0.0188	0.0040	0.0006	0.1328	0.0004	0.0750	0	0.0454	
	Th1		*		0.0436	0.0130	0.0014	0.0004	0.1000	0.0002	0.0620	0	0.027	
Тс			**		0.0942	0.0112	0.0060	0.0040	0.2172	0.0032	0.1384	0	0.0542	
	Tc1		*		0.0398	0.0058	0.0014	0.0010	0.1240	0.0022	0.0548	0	0.028	

C)

	Significa				Media	an marker i (median)		с	tr	IgE	pos	IgEneg	
Cluster	Marker	ctr/+	ctr/-	+/-	ctr	IgEpos	lgEneg	min	max	min	max	min	max
sTc#1	IFN-g		**		3.799	3.140	2.007	0.978	4.293	1.686	4.030	0	3.712
sTc#1	TNF-a				2.855	2.302	1.517	2.275	3.196	1.863	3.509	0	3.582
sNK#1	IFN-g		*	*	2.650	2.661	1.413	0	2.894	1.77	3.137	0	2.585
sNK#1	TNF-a			*	1.228	1.703	0.313	0	2.488	0	2.437	0	1.317
sTh#1	IL-17A	*			0	0.271	0.066	0	0.342	0	0.934	0	0.482
sTh#1	TNF-a				0.026	0	0	0	0.187	0	0.078	0	0.013
aTh#2	TNF-a		*		0.624	0.023	0	0	1.79	0	1.074	0	0.839
sTh#3	TNF-a		*		0.252	0	0	0	0.844	0	0.368	0	0.357
sB#1	IL-2		*		0.526	0.317	0.279	0.119	0.840	0	0.776	0.114	0.497

Supplementary figures



Supplementary Figure I: CITRUS trees in which each node denotes different cell clusters. The red nodes illustrate cell populations where the median marker intensities of the respective functional marker differed statistically significantly between the three groups as determined by SAM analyses, FDR 0.05. The parent and last generation child clusters are named.

A) " Intact cells " Living intact singlets No EQ r-191 " Ir-191 CD45-89 99.93% 30 20 S. 30⁰ 10⁸ 80 100 120 140 160 180 280 220 - e2o: ²⁰ EQ-140 یر 1r-193 ы² s-195 Event_length " CD3+CD14+ excluded " CD3+CD19+ excluded CD3-154 CD3-154 9.73% 10 u¹ u² u³ CD14-EQ-175 70² ⁴ یا² یا CD19-EQ-142 -1150 -101 "[†] T cells Natural Killer T cells 84.04% 3,40% CD3-154 CD3-CD19-B cells 3 10⁸ 3.37% CD19-EQ-142 ⁴ ³² ³¹ CD56-EQ-176 Natural Killer cells CD56-EQ-176 23.37% CD3-CD19 3 CD56-7.35% ¹¹² CD16-148 B) CD4+ T cells TNF-α IFN-γ IL-2 controls CD8+ T cells IgEpos lgEneg controls IgEpos lgEneg controls IgEpos IgEneg TNF-α IFN-γ IL-2 IgEpos IgEneg IgEpos IgEneg IgEpos IgEneg controls controls ols NK cells TNF-α IFN-γ IL-2

IgEneg

controls

IgEpos

IgEneg

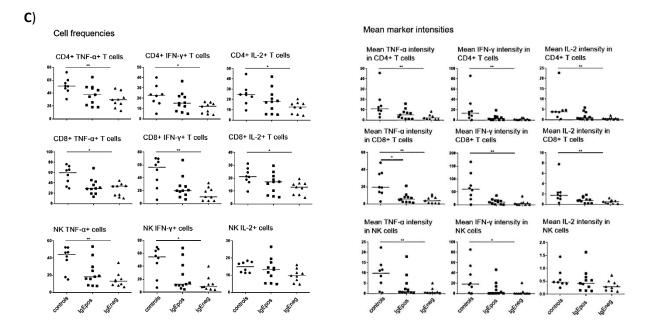
controls

IgEpos

IgEneg

controls

IgEpos



Supplementary Figure II. Mass cytometric analysis of stimulated cells.

A) Representative gating strategy of T cells, B cells, and NK cells.

B) Histograms showing the expression of TNF- α , IFN- γ , and IL-2 in T cells, B cells, and NK cells in the controls, IgEpos food allergy group, and IgEneg food allergy group.

C) Scatter plots of frequencies of TNF- α , IFN- γ , and IL-2 expressing CD4⁺ T cells, CD8⁺ T cells, and NK cells and mean TNF- α , IFN- γ , and IL-2 marker intensities in CD4⁺ T cells, CD8⁺ T cells, and NK cells in the three groups of participants: controls, IgEpos food allergy patients, and IgEneg food allergy patients. Each dot represents a participant while the lines represent the group median. * denotes P ≤ 0.05 and ** denotes P ≤ 0.01