

Supplementary Materials

Table S1. Effect of the supplementation with growth factors on body weight and relative organ weights in suckling rats.

Weight	Day 14								
	REF		TGF- β 2		EGF		FGF21		
	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	
Animals (g)	35.53	0.94	35.61	1.56	32.30	0.85	34.62	0.41	
Spleen (%)	0.67	0.06	0.70	0.04	0.66	0.03	0.62	0.06	
Thymus (%)	0.35	0.01	0.37	0.02	0.36	0.03	0.42	0.05	
Liver (%)	3.57	0.11	3.36	0.13	3.52	0.12	3.24	0.15	
	Day 21								
	Animals (g)	61.90 [‡]	2.32	60.42 [‡]	1.64	58.40 [‡]	1.37	58.42 [‡]	1.35
	Spleen (%)	0.58	0.02	0.61	0.03	0.60	0.03	0.63	0.02
	Thymus (%)	0.44 [‡]	0.02	0.45 [‡]	0.02	0.44 [‡]	0.03	0.45	0.02
	Liver (%)	4.30 [‡]	0.16	4.52 [‡]	0.14	4.25 [‡]	0.19	4.54 [‡]	0.10

[‡] $p < 0.05$ vs. same group at day 14.

Table S2. Effect of the supplementation with growth factors on the percentage of CD8⁺ and CD8⁻ lymphocyte subsets and of adhesion molecules in spleen lymphocytes of suckling rats.

Day 14	REF		TGF-β2		EGF		FGF21	
	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM
T cells (%)								
T TCRαβ ⁺ CD8 ⁺ /Total	2.43	0.37	2.47	0.23	1.82	0.22	2.47	0.28
T TCRαβ ⁺ CD8 ⁻ /Total	5.00	0.66	5.32	0.45	4.37	0.48	6.07	0.71
T TCRαβ ⁺ CD8 ⁺ /T TCRαβ ⁺	32.21	1.52	31.64	0.73	29.30	1.01	29.05	1.06
T TCRαβ ⁺ CD8 ⁻ /T TCRαβ ⁺	67.79	1.52	68.36	0.73	70.70	1.01	70.95	1.06
T TCRγδ ⁺ CD8 ⁺ /T TCRγδ ⁺	62.05	2.53	61.03	1.83	63.01	2.48	61.87	2.10
T TCRγδ ⁺ CD8 ⁻ /T TCRγδ ⁺	37.95	2.53	38.97	1.83	36.99	2.48	38.13	2.10
NKT cells (%)								
NKT CD8 ⁺ /NKT	83.99	3.02	84.51	1.07	79.74	3.21	79.98	1.53
NKT CD8 ⁻ /NKT	16.02	3.02	15.49	1.07	20.26	3.21	20.02	1.53
NK cells (%)								
NK CD8 ⁺ /NK	38.64	2.62	39.19	3.43	31.40	4.12	35.83	2.94
NK CD8 ⁻ /NK	61.36	2.62	60.81	3.43	68.60	4.12	64.17	2.94
Adhesion molecules (%)								
CD103 ⁺ /Total	1.82	0.33	1.73	0.22	1.32	0.27	1.34	0.22
CD62L ⁺ /Total	11.34	1.27	11.95	1.17	10.22	0.87	12.11	0.72
Day 21								
T cells (%)								
T TCRαβ ⁺ CD8 ⁺ /Total	3.80 [‡]	0.25	3.85 [‡]	0.45	2.94 [‡]	0.27	2.67 [*]	0.10
T TCRαβ ⁺ CD8 ⁻ /Total	7.54 [‡]	0.60	7.28	0.93	6.21 [‡]	0.47	5.93	0.30
T TCRαβ ⁺ CD8 ⁺ /T TCRαβ ⁺	33.77	1.16	34.67	1.40	32.10	1.61	31.20	1.67
T TCRαβ ⁺ CD8 ⁻ /T TCRαβ ⁺	66.23	1.16	65.33	1.40	67.90	1.61	68.80	1.67
T TCRγδ ⁺ CD8 ⁺ /T TCRγδ ⁺	71.83 [‡]	1.84	65.80	3.90	65.30	2.88	65.71	4.09
T TCRγδ ⁺ CD8 ⁻ /T TCRγδ ⁺	28.17 [‡]	1.85	34.20	3.90	34.70	2.88	34.29	4.09
NKT cells (%)								
NKT CD8 ⁺ /NKT	79.34	3.08	84.98	1.94	81.95	2.69	78.42	2.89
NKT CD8 ⁻ /NKT	20.65	3.08	15.03	1.94	18.05	2.69	21.58	2.89
NK cells (%)								
NK CD8 ⁺ /NK	43.94	1.95	41.03	1.21	41.50	1.78	40.17	1.52
NK CD8 ⁻ /NK	56.06	1.95	58.98	1.21	58.50	1.78 [‡]	59.83	1.52
Adhesion molecules (%)								
CD103 ⁺ /Total	0.67 [‡]	0.1	1.35	0.32	0.95	0.24	0.92	0.22
CD62L ⁺ /Total	18.63 [‡]	1.7	17.22	2.92	15.53 [‡]	1.79	14.28	1.55

**p*<0.05 vs. reference group, ‡ *p*<0.05 vs. same group at day 14.