

RESULTS

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* Response in PHA-stimulated culture:

The percentage of IL-2R expression in PHA-stimulated culture and the suppressive effect of CyA and Dex. for individual patients are shown in table 1 and Fig. 1. Responses in PHA-activated cultures ranged between 28%-60% which are higher than responses in CyA (range 15%-50%) and Dex (range 10%-45%) , supplemented cultures.

There is a significant difference in IL-2R expression between PHA-stimulated and Dex supplemented cultures, as well as between PHA-stimulated and CyA supplemented cultures ($P < 0.001$) (Fig. 3).

Although Dex showed a higher degree of suppression in a larger number of patients (16 out of 30), than did Cy-A, there is no significant difference on IL2 expression between CyA and Dex supplemented cultures and the range of suppression induced by CyA was greater than that of Dex (Fig. 3).

Table (1) Mean values of IL2R expression percentage for normal, CyA and Dex in pHA stimulated culture.

pHA-activated	37%	Cyc-A	50%	Dex	43%
	53%		49%		45%
	30%		18%		15%
	40%		18%		20%
	35%		20%		12%
	40%		15%		10%
	52%		28%		41%
	47%		21%		34%
	60%		31%		34%
	48%		30%		35%
	31%		29%		19%
	48%		35%		15%
	42%		37%		25%
	28%		33%		23%
	48%		30%		28%
	42%		38%		25%
	52%		28%		41%
	42%		32%		23%
	28%		17%		13%
	38%		17%		19%
	43%		31%		34%
	48%		30%		34%
	53%		26%		44%
	47%		21%		34%
	45%		31%		34%
	48%		30%		35%
	32%		20%		17%
	40%		19%		22%
	32%		20%		12%
	35%		20%		12%

Table (1): Effect of Dex and CyA on IL-2R expression in pHA-stimulated cultures of individual patients. Results expressed as the mean of Triplicate culture.

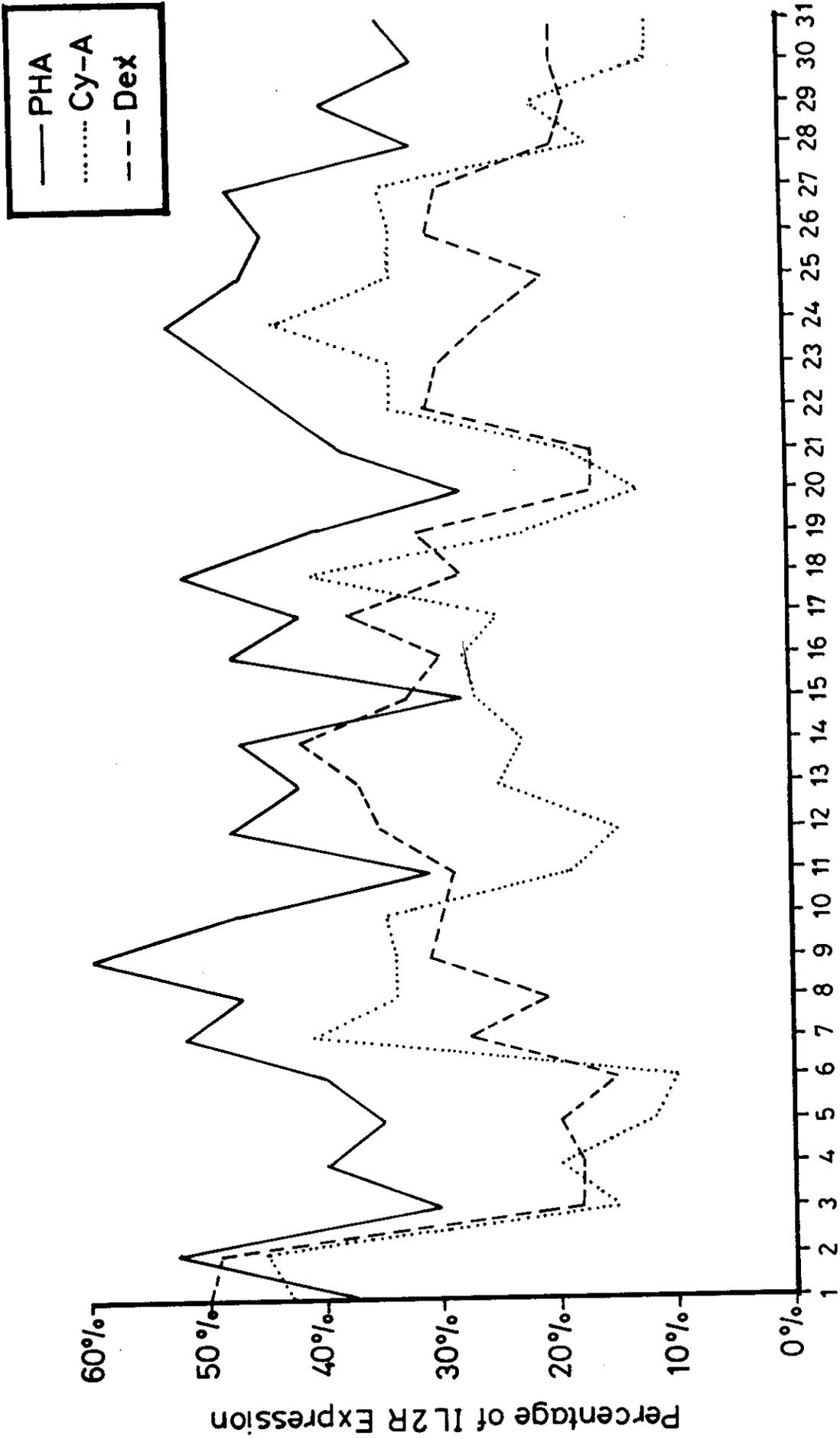


Fig. (1) : Percentage of inhibition induced by Cyclosporin-A and Dexamethasone in PHA - stimulated culture.

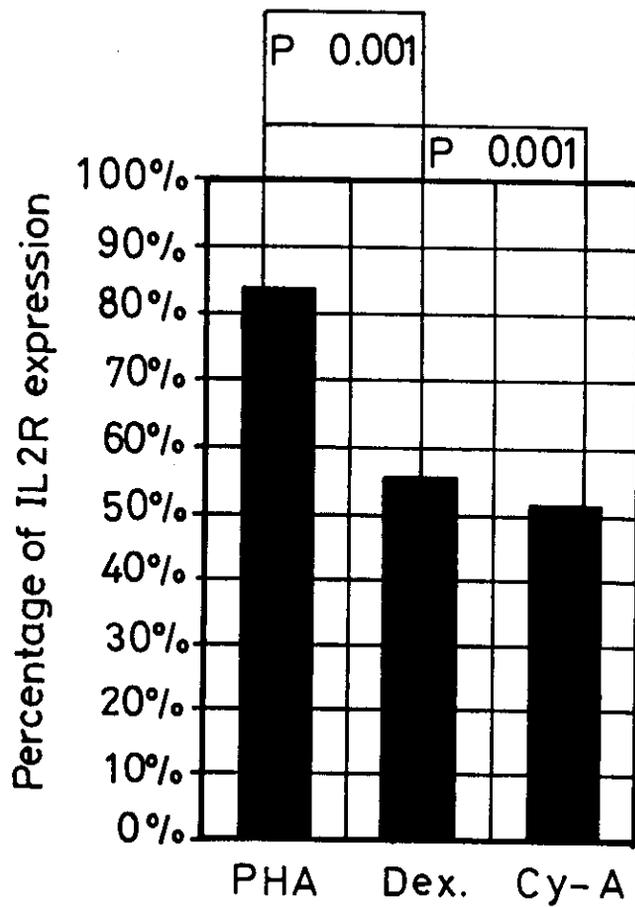


Fig.(3): Effect of Cy-A and Dex. on PHA activated cells.

Results expressed as the mean value (\pm S.D.) of all patients.

*** Response in Mixed lymphocyte culture (MLC):**

The percentage of IL-2R expression in MLC and suppressive effect of Cy A and Dex for individual patients are shown in table 2 and Fig. 2. Responses in MLC ranged between 18% - 56% which are higher than responses in CyA (range 2%-38%) and Dex (range 8%-38%) supplemented cultures. There is a significant difference in IL-2R expression between MLC and Dex supplemented cultures ($P < 0.05$), as well as between MLC and Cy A supplemented cultures ($P < 0.001$) (Fig. 4).

Although Cy A seemed to induce more suppression on IL-2R expression in MLC than did Dex (average 48% & 52% of IL2R expression), there is was no significant difference between Cy A and Dex supplemented cultures on IL-2R expression.

The suppressive effects of Cy A and Dex on IL-2R expression were higher in MLC than in pHA-stimulated cultures.

Table (2): Mean value of IL-2R expression percentage for normal, CyA and Dex in MLC.

MLC-R+D	56%	MLC-CYA	37%	MLC-Dex	35%
	23%		8%		15%
	44%		2%		8%
	56%		37%		35%
	53%		27%		35%
	52%		32%		35%
	48%		34%		38%
	54%		32%		37%
	52%		38%		28%
	25%		8%		15%
	53%		27%		37%
	53%		34%		35%
	55%		29%		37%
	23%		8%		15%
	18%		8%		15%

Table (2): Effect of CyA and Dex on IL-2R expression in MLC of individual patients.

Results expressed as the mean of Triplicate culture.

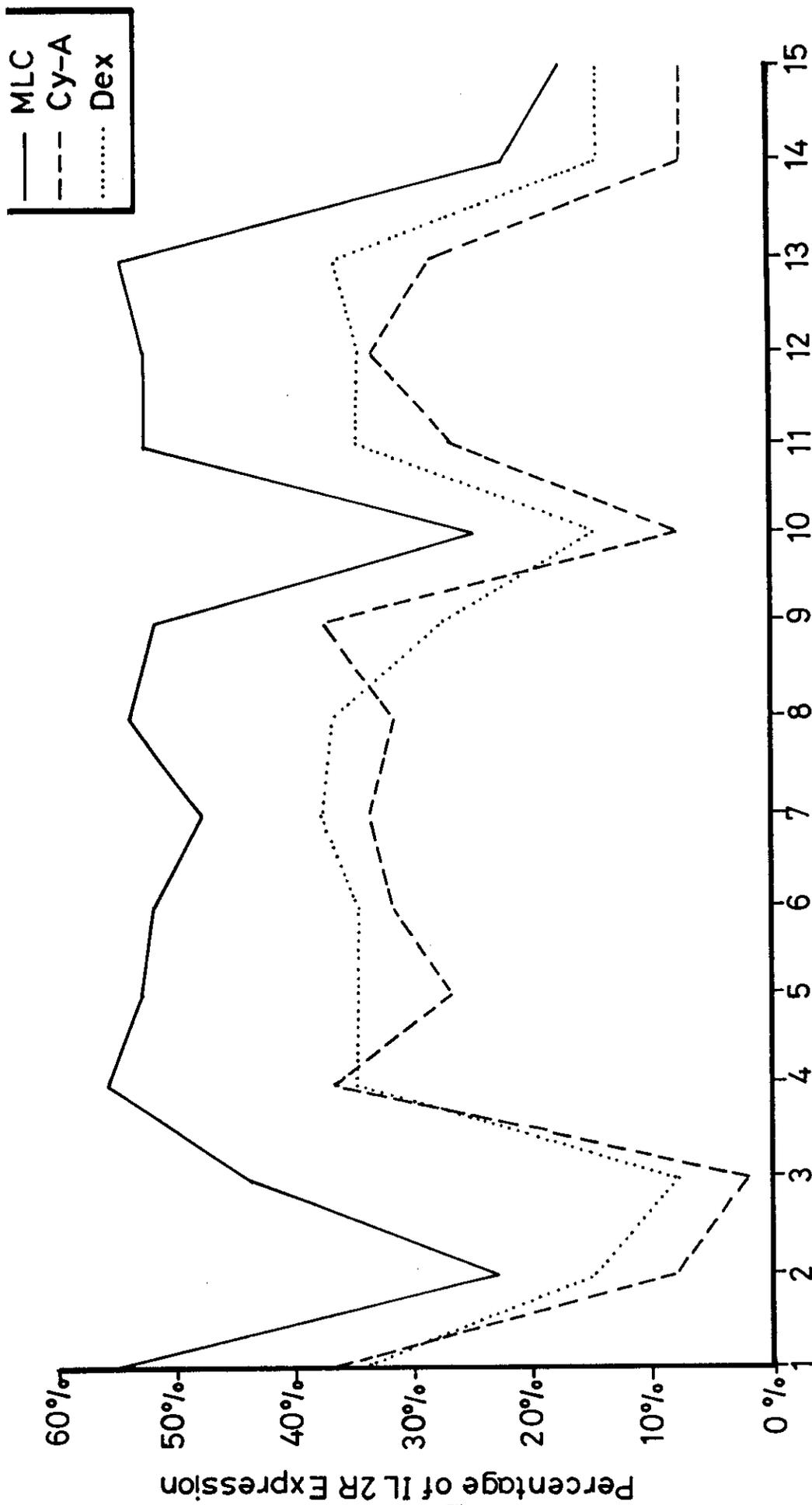


Fig. (2) : Percentage of inhibition induced by Cyclosporin - A and Dexamethasone in MLC.

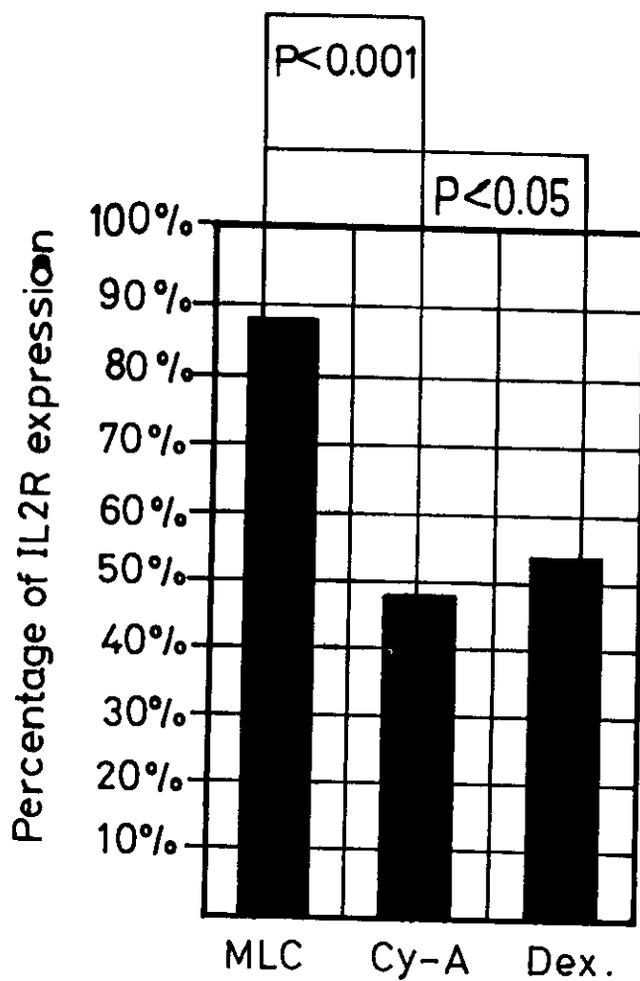


Fig.(4) : Effect of Cy-A and Dex. on MLC.
Results expressed as the mean value
(\pm S.D.) of all patients.