References


[Berzofsky (1988)] J. A. Berzofsky, A. Bensussan, K. B. Cease, J. F. Bourge, R. Cheynier, Z. Lurhama, J.-J. Salaun, R. C. Gallo, G. M. Shearer, & D. Zagury. Antigenic peptides recognized by T lymphocytes from AIDS viral envelope-immune humans. *Nature* **334**:706–708, 1988. NOTE: (Medline: 88318926) Test of response to synthetic peptides of lymphocytes from 14 healthy human volunteers who had been immunized with a rec vaccinia virus containing HIV gp160, then boosted with a recombinant fragment containing the carboxyl-terminal 40% of gp120. 8/14 showed a proliferative response to T1; 4/14 to T2. A reduced response to T2 in terms of both magnitude and frequency may have been because of the boost containing the region covering T1, but not T2, and because of the timing of sampling relative to immunization. Some HLA typing was done but no conclusive MHC restriction patterns were determined. Env epitopes: T1: KQIINMWQEVMGLAMYA and T2: HEDIISLWDQSLK.

[Botarelli (1991)] P. Botarelli, B. A. Houlden, N. L. Haigwood, C. Servis, D. Montagna, & S. Abrignani. N-glycosylation of HIV-gp120 may constrain recognition by T lymphocytes. *J. Immunol.* **147**:3128–3132, 1991. NOTE: 20% of T-cell clones from individuals inoculated with a recombinant nonglycosylated form of gp120 made an response that failed to respond to glycosylated protein. The epitope for one such clone was mapped and contained two glycosylated asparagines. Thus N-linked carbohydrates can abrogate antigen recognition by T lymphocytes.

[Callahan (1990)] K. M. Callahan, M. M. Fort, E. A. Obah, E. L. Reinherz, & R. F. Siliciano. Genetic variability in HIV-1 gp120 affects interactions with HLA molecules and T-cell receptor. *J Immunology* **144**:3341–3346, 1990. NOTE: (Medline: 90229719) Synthetic peptides representing a defined CD4+ human T-cell epitope in gp120 were used to survey gp120 molecules from various HIV-1 strains for the capacity to be recognized in the context of a single human MHC molecule, DR4. gp120 epitope: GSDTITLPCRIKQFINMWQE.

[Cease (1987)] K. B. Cease, H. Margalit, J. L. Cornette, S. D. Putney, W. G. Robey, C. Ouyang, H. Z. Streicher, P. J. Fischinger, R. C. Gallo, C. DeLisi, & J. A. Berzofsky. Helper T-cell antigenic site identification in the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome virus gp120 envelope protein and induction of immunity in mice to the native protein using a 16-residue synthetic peptide. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **84**:4249–4253, 1987. NOTE: (Medline: 87231983) An algorithm based on a model of immunodominant helper T-cell sites forming amphipathic helices was used to identify for the first time two T-cell sites, env T1 and env T2. These two peptides were shown to stimulate proliferation of T-cells in mice immunized with a fragment of the env protein. Also, mice immunized with T1 were able to induce immunity to env gp120. Multiple haplotypes were responsive. Env epitopes: T2: HEDIISLWDQSLK and T1: KQIINMWQEVMGLAMYA.

NOTE: (Medline: 92259993) Cell-mediated immune response to HIV-1 can be detected in the absence of a humoral immune response in individuals recently exposed to HIV-1. gp160 epitopes: T1, T2, TH4.1, P18-Hib, P18-MN.


NOTE: (Medline: 91170774) Peptides reported to stimulate Th cell function were used to demonstrate CTL activity in a similar patient population. Env epitopes: T1, T2, Th4 and P18.


NOTE: (Medline: 89262051) Investigation of the T-helper cell response of 42 asymptomatic HIV-seropositive patients to four synthetic gp160 peptides and to influenza A virus. This paper suggests that a proliferative response is lost in HIV-1 infected individuals prior to the loss of IL-2 production. Env epitopes: T1, T2, TH4.1 and P18.


NOTE: (Medline: 91257138) Immunization of uninfected individuals with an HIV subunit vaccine results in stronger Th cell immunity than does natural infection. Boosting enhances helper function. Env epitopes: T1, T2, TH4.1 and P18.


NOTE: Medline: 92064980. The peptide CTEMEKEGKISKIGP stimulates both murine helper and cytotoxic T-cells in H-2k mice, and was able to stimulate IL-2 producing T-cells from 9 out of 17 HIV seropositive humans. Additional murine RT epitopes were identified by peptide stimulation of T-cells cultured from lymph nodes of RT immunized mice.


NOTE: Helper T-cell epitopes in nef were investigated using five synthetic peptides selected for their amphipathic and α helix properties. One of the peptides, 45-59 was very immunogenic, and could induce functional T-cell help *in vivo*.
NOTE: (Medline: 90302545) In this study, mice were immunized with multivalent peptides anchored in a phospholipid complex; these peptides were able to stimulate a potent antibody response. That a functional T-helper cell epitope is present within the peptide is inferred by the ability of B-cells to respond to these constructs. Using this system, adjuvant could be bypassed.

NOTE: (Medline: 91257142) RT peptides were recognized by several of the T-helper lines established from RT-primed mice. Further, T-cells from peptide-primed mice could be restimulated by native RT. RT epitope: KEKVYLVPAHKGIG.

NOTE: (Medline: 91207940) Six helper T multideterminant regions of the HIV envelope protein are recognized by mice of either three or all four murine MHC types.

NOTE: (Medline: 93171812) In this study the immunogenicity of a T1-V3 loop hybrid peptide in chimpanzees was dramatically reduced by the addition of the gp41 fusogenic domain to the hybrid peptide. This was hypothesized to be the result of the HIV gp41 fusion domain having a immunoregulatory function in vivo, that results in primate immune hyporesponsiveness to otherwise immunogenic peptides.

NOTE: (Medline: 91132039) Induction of T-cell help in rhesus monkeys *Macaca mulatta* by priming with peptides T2 or TH4.1 enhances antibody response to a subsequent suboptimal gp160 immunization. T1 alone failed to elicit a response in these experiments. Env epitopes: T1, T2, TH4.1.

NOTE: Immunized mice activate IL-4 and IL-6 producing cells in a dose dependent manner. The V3 region epitope as well as the T1 epitope is able to activate cytokine-producing cells. The order of immunization of T1-SP10 peptides influences the magnitude and cross-reactivity of the response, where the SP10, V3 portion of the immunogen is varied.
HIV Helper T-cell Epitopes


NOTE: (Medline: 90203581) Conjugation of HIV peptides or proteins to liposomes and stimulation with rIL-2 may enhance cell-mediated responses to peptides. gp120 epitopes: QIVKKLREQFGNNK, FRPGGDMDNWRSEL.


NOTE: Four cynomolgous macaques were immunized with 3 doses of p24 TY virus-like particles and their immune response was followed. Three 15 mer peptides stimulated CD4 T-cells proliferation and IL-2 production. Two of these responses were verified at the clonal level. B-cell responses were also studied in this paper.


NOTE: (Medline: 94328220) The proliferative T-cell response to pools of overlapping 17 mer peptides spanning Env were tested in both seronegative and low risk seropositive people. The pool that gave the greatest number of responders was pool 25, located in gp41. The 17 mer peptides used in this pool were tested individually for their ability to stimulate T-cell proliferation, and the most critical regions were found to be GIWGCSKGLC and PWNASWSN. Mutch et al. suggest that the proliferative response in HIV-1 seronegative individuals is more likely due to cross-reactive, non-HIV induced memory cells than naive T-cells.


NOTE: (Medline: 89235170) Synthetic peptides containing type-specific neutralizing determinants of the V3 loop of gp120 were coupled to a 16 amino acid T-cell epitope (T1) of HIV-IIIB and used to immunize goats. The helper T-cell epitope T1 could induce both a proliferative response and a B-cell antibody response. Conversely, the B-cell epitope in the V3 region, SP10 was found to stimulate proliferative T-cell responses.


NOTE: (Medline: 90171850) Human CD4+ T-cell clones and cell lines were shown to lyse recombinant vaccinia virus-infected cells that synthesize the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein gp160, showing that endogenously processed antigen can be presented by class II MHC. gp160 epitope: GSDTITLPCRIRKQFINMWQE.
HIV Helper T-cell Epitopes


NOTE: A vpr peptide was shown to stimulate a T-cell proliferative response in 37% of HIV+ individuals. This peptide was coupled with B-cell epitopes, and immunized mice were capable of antibody production.


NOTE: (Medline: 91354553) Seven out of 19 peptides induced good T-cell proliferative response in mice representing four major histocompatibility complex haplotypes, without eliciting an Ab response, a situation considered desirable by Sastry and Arlinghaus. Eleven peptides were able to induce T-cells that could proliferate in response to recombinant gp160 (greater than or equal to 3 fold relative to unrelated peptides). Peptides were modified to generate polymers with disulfide bonds or micelles with palmitic acid residues attached to the amino-terminal lysine; in these configurations peptides were immunogenic without being coupled to a carrier molecule. F1 hybrid mice were used: ASW x BALBc F1 (H-2<sup>kxb</sup>) and B6C3 F1 (H-2<sup>sxd</sup>).


NOTE: (Medline: 89124356) The ability of 21 peptides to stimulate T-cell proliferation was tested in 30 HIV-infected donors in different clinical stages. T-cells from 27/30 donors were able to respond to at least one peptide. Two of the peptides were able to stimulate proliferation in 48% of the donors. Schrier et al. did not write down the peptide sequences they used, but only provided the numbering of the boundaries on a reference sequence (LAI, Wain-Hobson et al., Cell 40:9-17 (1985)). In our experience, such numbering is often imprecise, so the peptide assignments in this database may be off by several residues. Two epitopes that Schrier et al. mistakenly labeled as p24 peptides are instead p15 peptides.


NOTE: (Medline: 88275015) Characterization of murine T-lymphocyte dependent B-cell responses; also, T-cells from 7/29 HIV-1 positive people showed a proliferative response to this peptide.


NOTE: (Medline: 90155121) This same epitope can be recognized in the context of a class I MHC D<sup>4</sup>, by CD4- CD8+ CTL, and in the context of a class II MHC A<sup>4</sup> by CD4+ CD8- T-helper cells.

NOTE: Four Gag peptides, that when pooled are able to prime for subsequent antibody response to HIV in mice, were studied. These peptides were also able to prime in vitro immunoproliferative responses. The two peptides of the four that were able to prime humoral responses to inactivated HIV-1 are included in the table (G2 and G4) – the other two are not included (G1 and G3). Three proposed nef helper T-cell epitopes are also not included in the table, but may be of interest. These nef peptides could prime the humoral response in mice, but not in vitro proliferation. Priming was also observed in baboons, using the pool of four Gag peptides.


NOTE: The epitope defined here is the immunodominant epitope for a helper T-cell response to the gp120 vaccine in mice.