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Oral presentation

Neutralizing anti-Tat antibodies prolonged HAART interruption in vaccines in a prospective structured interruption study

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Anti-Tat therapeutic vaccination has been clinically investigated by different groups [1-4], given that 1) extracellular Tat protein induces T cell apoptosis and cellular immune suppression, 2) epidemiological data showed that LTNP exhibit high level of serum anti-Tat Ab, negatively correlated with p24 antigenemia, 3) in Tat immunized macaques, viremia decreased following SHIV challenge. Anti-Tat therapeutic vaccination using Tat Toxoid adjuvanted either with Seppic [1,2] or with alum or DcChol (Aventis Pasteur) proved to be safe. A prospective structured treatment interruption study (STI) monitored according to EU guidelines was conducted at Hospital St-Pierre, Brussels (Pr. N. Clumeck) on 31 vaccinees who received a DcChol adjuvanted Tat Toxoid (n = 12), a DcChol placebo (n = 8) or non adjuvanted Tat toxoid (n = 11). The 2 year study follow-up showed that vaccinees developing high titer of Abs neutralizing Tat bioactivity prolonged HAART-interruption.

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