



POSTER PRESENTATION

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Systems analysis of MVA-C induced immune response reveals its significance as a vaccine candidate against HIV/AIDS of clade C

C Gómez^{1*}, B Perdiguero¹, V Jimenez¹, A Filali-Mouhim², K Ghneim², E Haddad², E Quakkerlaar¹, J Delaloye¹, A Harari¹, T Roger¹, T Duhem¹, R Sekaly², C Melief¹, T Calandra¹, F Sallusto¹, A Lanzavecchia¹, R Wagner¹, G Pantaleo¹, M Esteban¹

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Background

Based on the partial efficacy of the HIV/AIDS Thai trial (RV144) with a canarypox vector prime and protein boost, attenuated poxvirus recombinants expressing HIV-1 antigens are increasingly sought as vaccine candidates against HIV/AIDS.

Methods

Here we describe using systems analysis the biological and immunological characteristics of the attenuated vaccinia virus Ankara strain expressing the HIV-1 antigens Env/Gag-Pol-Nef of HIV-1 of clade C (referred as MVA-C).

Results

MVA-C infection of human monocyte derived dendritic cells (moDCs) induced the expression of HIV-1 antigens at high levels from 2 to 8 hpi and triggered moDCs maturation as revealed by enhanced expression of HLA-DR, CD86, CD40, HLA-A2 and CD80 molecules. Infection *ex vivo* of purified mDC and pDC with MVA-C induced the expression of immunoregulatory pathways associated with antiviral responses, antigen presentation, T cell and B cell responses. Similarly, human whole blood or primary macrophages infected with MVA-C express high levels of proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines involved with T cell activation. The vector MVA-C has the ability to cross-present antigens to HIV-specific CD8 T cells *in vitro* and to increase CD8 T cell proliferation in a dose-dependent manner. The

immunogenic profiling in mice after DNA-C prime/MVA-C boost combination revealed activation of HIV-1-specific CD4 and CD8 T cell memory responses, that are polyfunctional and with effector memory phenotype. Env-specific IgG binding antibodies were also produced in animals receiving DNA-C prime/MVA-C boost.

Conclusion

Our systems analysis of profiling immune response to MVA-C infection highlights the potential benefit of MVA-C as vaccine candidate against HIV/AIDS for clade C, the prevalent subtype virus in the most affected areas of the world.

Author details

¹Centro Nacional de Biotecnología, Madrid, Spain. ²VGTI, Port Saint Lucie, FL, USA.

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¹Centro Nacional de Biotecnología, Madrid, Spain
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article