

Art of ART 2019

HIV cure 101. Progress and challenges

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Overview

- Barriers to HIV Cure
- Framework for HIV Cure strategies
- Cases of HIV remission off ART
- Broadly Neutralising antibodies
- Combination interventions
- Post Treatment Control

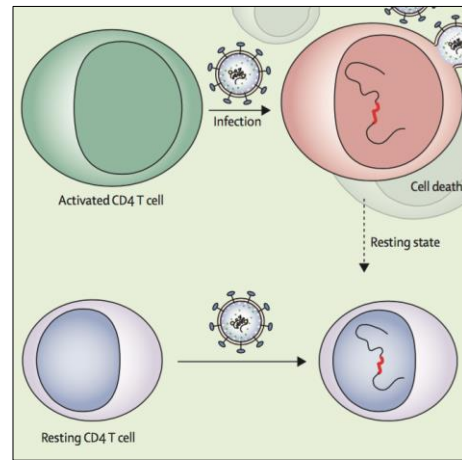


HIV latency

Latent infection = integration of HIV DNA into host genome with virus production

Established by:

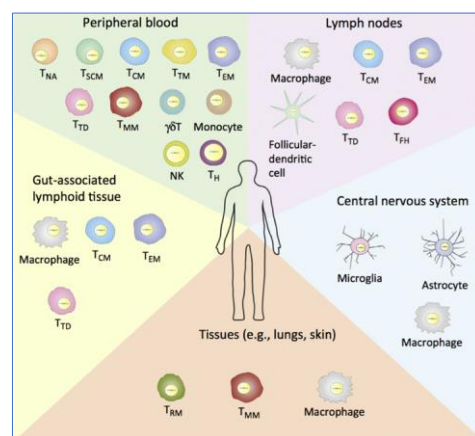
- Survival of an activated infected T cell, which reverts to a memory state, or,
- After direct infection of a resting CD4 T cell



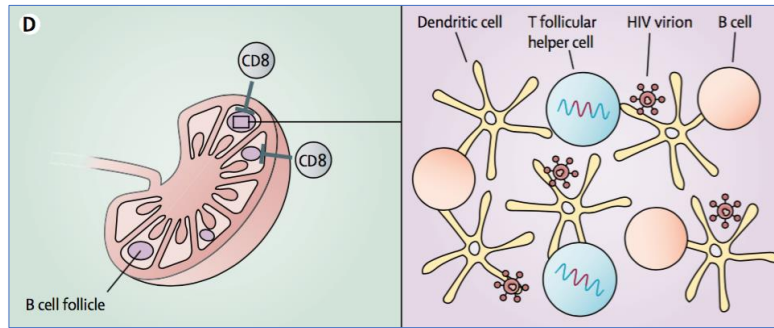
Tissue reservoirs

Main sites of latent HIV infection:

- CD4+ memory T cell subsets in peripheral blood
- Lymphoid tissue
- Gut-associated lymphoid tissue
- Central nervous system



Lymph Node B cell follicles



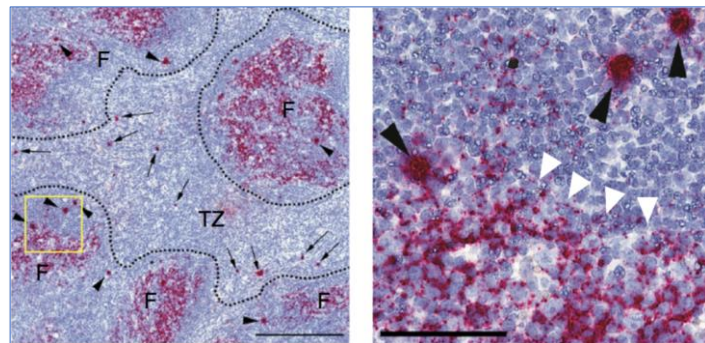
B cell follicles – a sanctuary for HIV

Red = SIV RNA

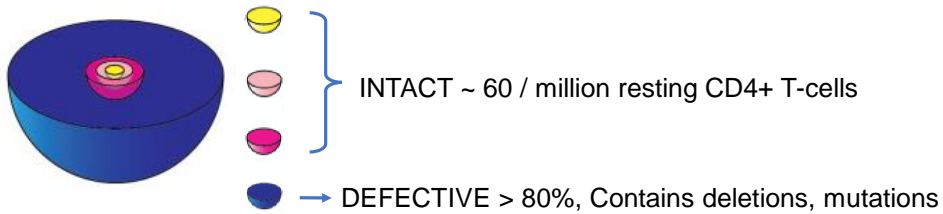
Black arrows =
RNA+ lymphoid
cells outside
follicles

Black arrowheads
= RNA+ lymphoid
cells in B cell
follicles

White arrowheads
= extracellular
follicular dendritic
cell-bound
virus within follicles



Intact versus defective virus

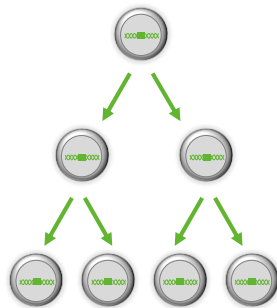


Frequencies of infected resting CD4+ T cells

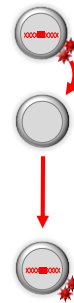
- Yellow = size of the latent reservoir measured by viral outgrowth assay
- Magenta and Pink = frequency of cells with intact proviruses
 - Potential reservoir size if intact non-induced proviruses can be induced in vivo
- Blue = cells with HIV DNA

Clonal expansion versus residual replication

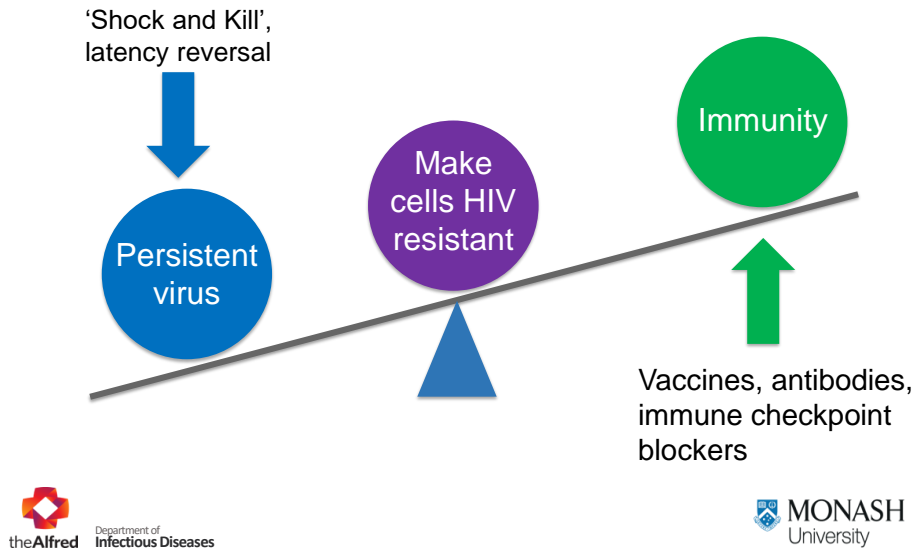
Proliferation of latently infected cells



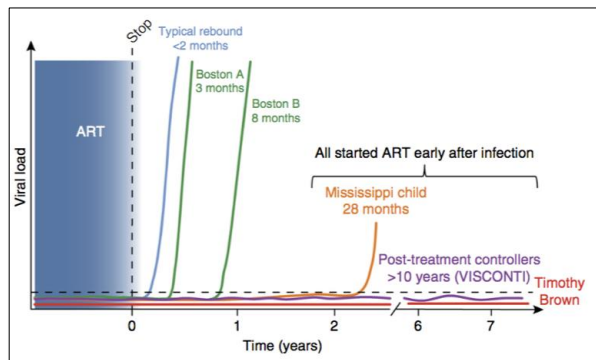
Residual viral replication (productive infection)



Current approaches to HIV cure/remission



Transient or sustained remission off ART



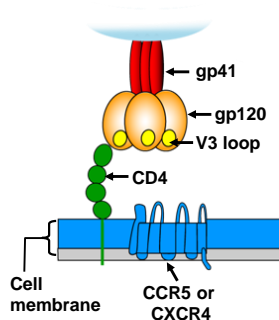
288 day remission (Mayo)²

- allo-HSCT for B-ALL from CCR5 wild type donor
- ATI 2 years post HSCT
- Mild (grade 1) GVHD
- < 1% chimerism
- Asymptomatic viral rebound at day 288 and re-suppressed within 4 weeks

Timothy Brown



CCR5 as target for HIV remission



- $\Delta 32$ is a 32 base pair deletion in CCR5 preventing expression
- 1% of Europeans are $\Delta 32$ homozygous and are resistant to R5 HIV

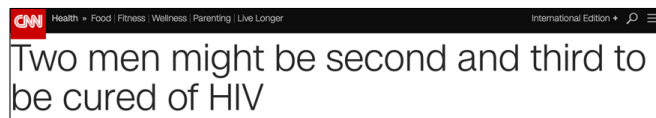
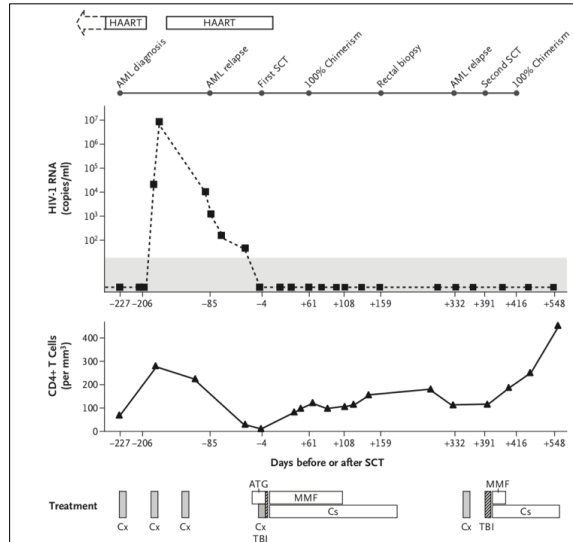


Adapted from Doms R. Genes Dev. 2000



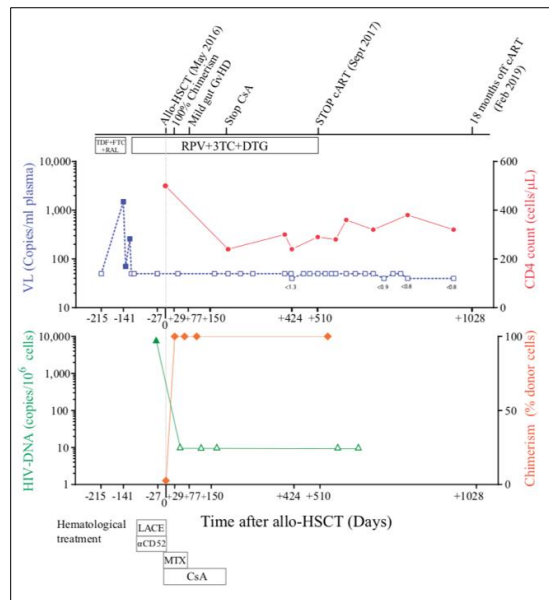
Timothy Brown - Berlin patient

- Initially reported when 20 months post HSCT and off ART with no viral rebound
- Now 12 years off ART
- On one pill a day PrEP



London patient

- Male (? age), HIV Dx 2003
- TDF/FTC/EFV 2012
- Hodgkin's Lymphoma 12/2012
- Progressed post chemotherapy
- Donor: Unrelated 9/10 HLA match, Homozygous for the CCR5 delta 32 mutation
- Conditioning: chemotherapy (LACE) and alemtuzumab (anti-CD52). No irradiation
- Discharged Day +31
- Day +77: Grade 1 GVHD



London patient

- 100% donor chimerism from day 30
- Genotype changed from CCR5 wildtype before transplant, to CCR5 $\Delta 32/\Delta 32$ after transplant
- Patient cells post transplant could not be infected by R5 virus
- Patient cells from pre-transplant R5 only
- HIV not detectable in blood pre and post* ART interruption
- Loss of antibody response to HIV

*3 x VOA, 3 DNA PCR assays [1/8 replicate low +ve on one assay]

Significance

- Tim Brown was not an anomaly
- Significance of CCR5 disruption for cure strategies
 - E.g. Gene editing to remove CCR5 from T-cells,¹ but only ~ 10% of persisting CD4+ T-cells are CCR5 modified
- Continue to pursue CCR5 negative donors for PLHIV requiring HSCT
- However, these therapies are not to treat HIV but to treat aggressive cancer

Dusseldorf patient

- 49 yo male. Diagnosed with AML 2011. HSCT 2/2013
- Transplant donor: 10/10 HLA match, homozygous for the CCR5 $\Delta 32$ mutation
- Conditioning: fludarabine and treosulfan. No irradiation
- Post HSCT: Relapse 6/2013 → 8 courses of 5-azacytidine and 4 donor lymphocyte infusions → remission
- 3/2014: Grade 1 graft versus host disease

Compare the 3 cases

	London patient	Dusseldorf patient	Berlin patient
Underlying condition	Hodgkin's Lymphoma	AML	AML
HSCT, donor CCR5 $\Delta 32/\Delta 32$	Once	Once	Twice
Conditioning	reduced intensity: anti-CD52 (alemtuzumab)	reduced intensity: fludarabine/ treosulfan	Total body irradiation (twice)
GvH disease	Grade 1	Grade 1	Grade 1
Chimerism post HSCT	100%	100%	100%
ART post-transplant	16 months	66 months	None
Time with HIV remission	18 months	3 months	12 years

Broadly Neutralising Antibodies

Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies (bNAbs)

- Derived from a people that develop potent cross-neutralizing antibodies to many different HIV strains
 - International HIV Controller study¹
- Bind HIV envelope protein expressed on HIV or the surface of infected cells
 - Neutralise free virus → can't go on to infect other cells
 - Clear infected cells → Fc receptor-dependent mechanisms (binding to Fc receptors on cytotoxic / phagocytic cells) e.g. ADCC, facilitate antigen presentation
- Can be produced in larger quantities with new Ab cloning techniques

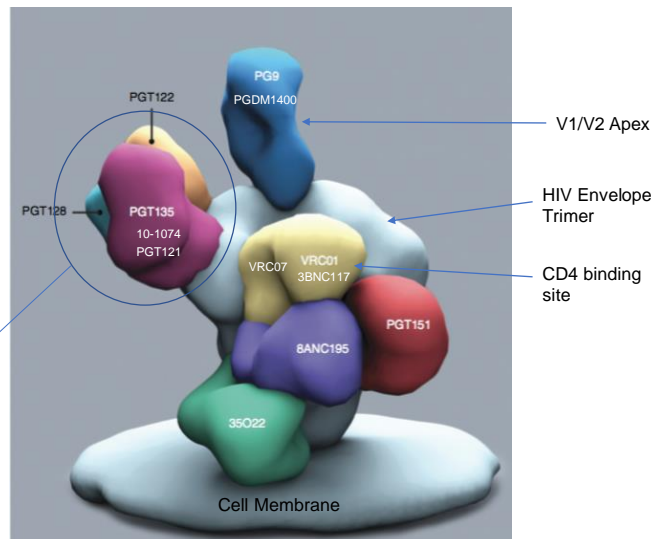


1 Pereyra, Science, 2010



Broadly
Neutralizing Abs
(antigen-binding
fragments)
bound to the HIV
Envelope trimer

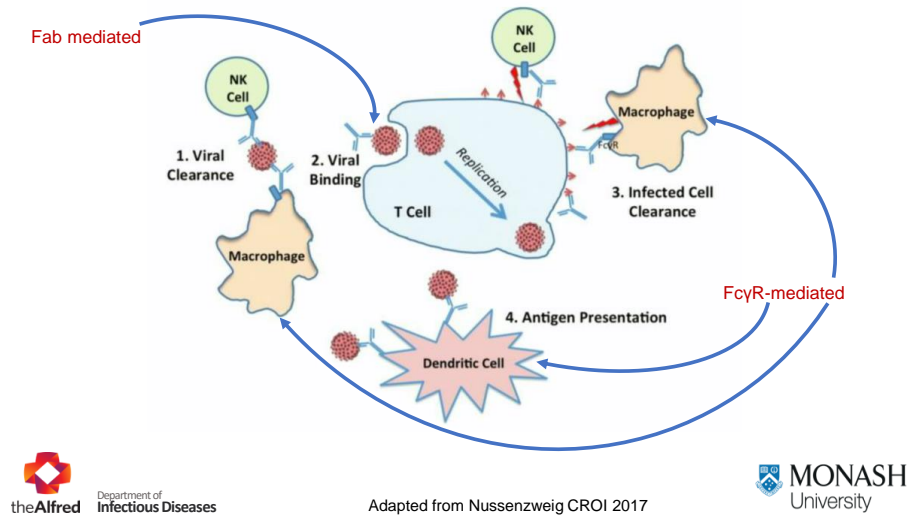
High Mannose Patch /
V3 loop / N332 Glycan
Supersite



Adapted from
Burton Nat Immunol 2015



How do bNAbs work?



Combinations of Broadly Neutralizing Antibody when interrupting ART

ARTICLE

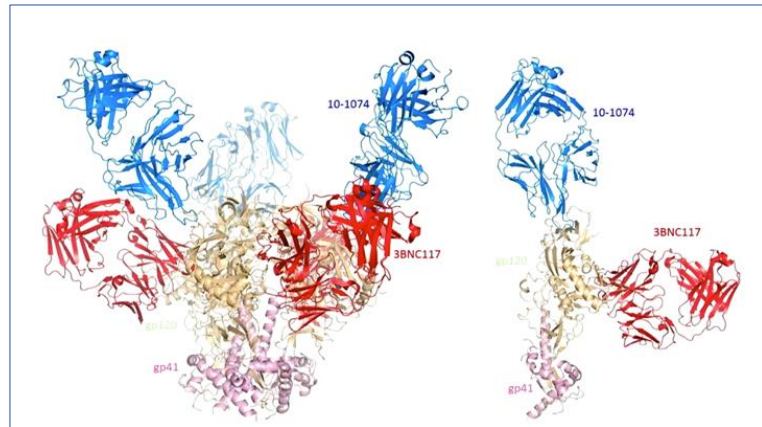
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0531-2>

Combination therapy with anti-HIV-1 antibodies maintains viral suppression

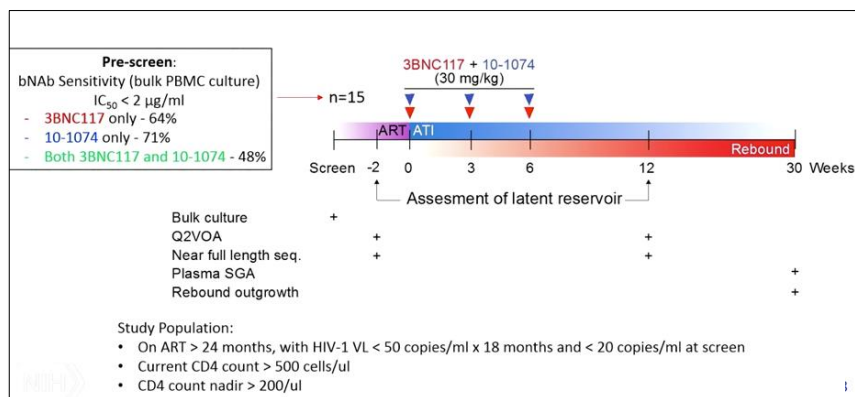
Pilar Mendoza^{1,19}, Henning Gruell^{2,3,4,19}, Lilian Nogueira¹, Joy A. Pai¹, Allison L. Butler¹, Katrina Millard¹, Clara Lehmann^{3,4,5}, Isabelle Suárez^{3,4,5}, Thiago Y. Oliveira¹, Julio C. C. Lorenzi¹, Yehuda Z. Cohen¹, Christoph Wyen^{3,6}, Tim Kümmerle^{3,6}, Theodora Karagounis¹, Ching-Lan Lu¹, Lisa Handl¹, Cecilia Unson-O'Brien¹, Roshni Patel¹, Carola Ruping², Maike Schlotz², Maggi Witmer-Pack¹, Irina Shimeliovich¹, Gisela Kremer², Eleonore Thomas², Kelly E. Seaton², Jill Horowitz², Anthony P. West Jr¹, Pamela J. Bjorkman⁹, Georgia D. Tomaras^{8,10,11,12}, Roy M. Gulick¹³, Nico Pfeiffer^{7,14,15,16}, Gerd Fätkenheuer^{3,4}, Michael S. Seaman¹⁷, Florian Klein^{2,4,5,20*}, Marina Caskey^{1,20*} & Michel C. Nussenzweig^{1,18,20*}

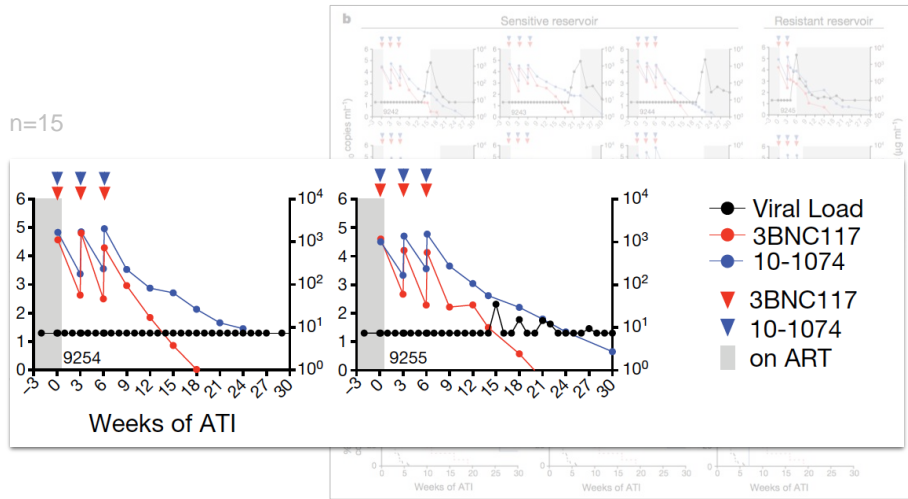
27 SEPTEMBER 2018 | VOL 561 | NATURE | 479

3BNC117 + 10-1074 target non-overlapping sites on HIV (CD4 binding site and V3 loop)

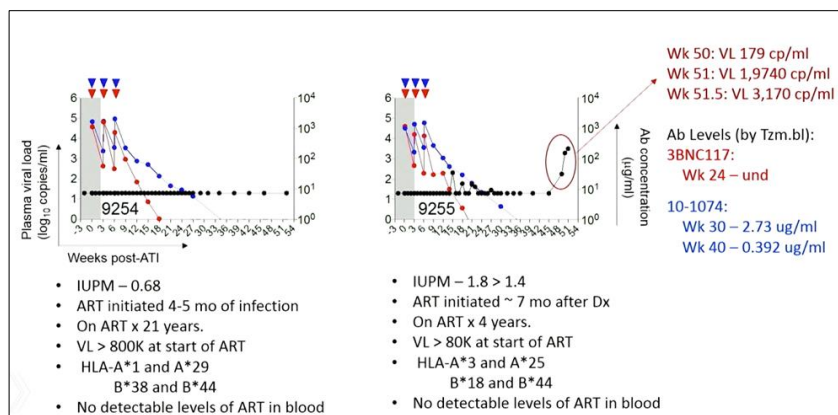


Design: 3BNC117 + 10-1074 with ART interruption



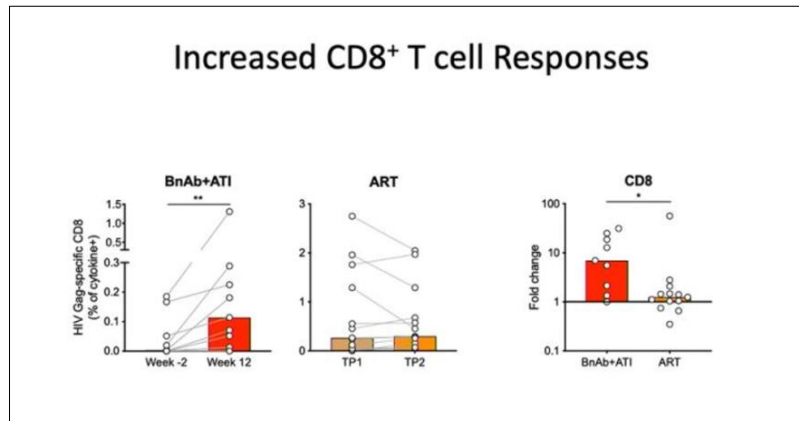


Of 2 controllers: one rebounded at 1 year,
the other remains suppressed



The person controlling virus started ART early
HLA types are not that of elite controllers

Increased HIV-specific immune responses in those receiving bNAbs even when virally suppressed



Combination intervention to increase HIV-specific immune responses

PGT-121 (another bNAb) and TLR7 agonist

Combining broadly Neutralizing Antibody with another immunomodulator (TLR7 agonist) in a monkey model

ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0600-6>

Antibody and TLR7 agonist delay viral rebound in SHIV-infected monkeys

Erica N. Borducchi^{1,6}, Jinyan Liu^{1,6}, Joseph P. Nkolola^{1,6}, Anthony M. Cadena^{1,6}, Wen-Han Yu², Stephanie Fischinger², Thomas Broge², Peter Abbink¹, Noe B. Mercado¹, Abishek Chandrashekar¹, David Jetton¹, Lauren Peter¹, Katherine McMahan¹, Edward T. Moseley¹, Elena Bekerman³, Joseph Hesselgesser³, Wenjun Li⁴, Mark G. Lewis⁵, Galit Alter², Romas Geleziunas³ & Dan H. Barouch^{1,2,6}



Combinations to increase HIV-specific immune responses in the setting of ART treated suppression

- bNAb effector functions → potentially clear HIV infected T-cells and increase antigen presentation and therefore increase HIV-specific cytotoxic T-cell responses
- TLR-7 agonists
 - Activate dendritic cells to produce IFN- α and other cytokines
 - Cause activation of NK cells and cross-priming of cytotoxic T-cells
 - Therefore impact innate and adaptive immune responses
- Can a bNAb with a additional immune stimulant (TLR7 agonist) target the HIV reservoir and lead to viral control off ART



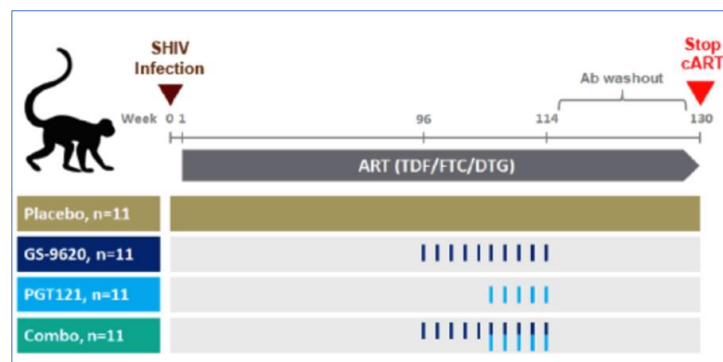
Study Drugs

- TLR7 agonist GS-9620 (Vesatolimod)
 - NCT02858401 - Dose escalation study in suppressed patients looking for change in HIV RNA from baseline.
 - Completed March 2019, to be presented IAS 2019
 - NCT03060447 – Placebo controlled ATI study in people whose pre-ART viral load was < 5000 c/mL. GS-9620 pre and post ATI
- PGT-121
 - NCT03205917 – Phase 1 study alone and in combination with another bNAb (PGDM1400) in uninfected and infected viremic people
 - NCT02960581 (IAVI T001) – Phase 1 study in uninfected, and infected viremic and aviremic people. Partially presented at CROI 2019
- Both being developed by Gilead and in trials alone for PLHIV



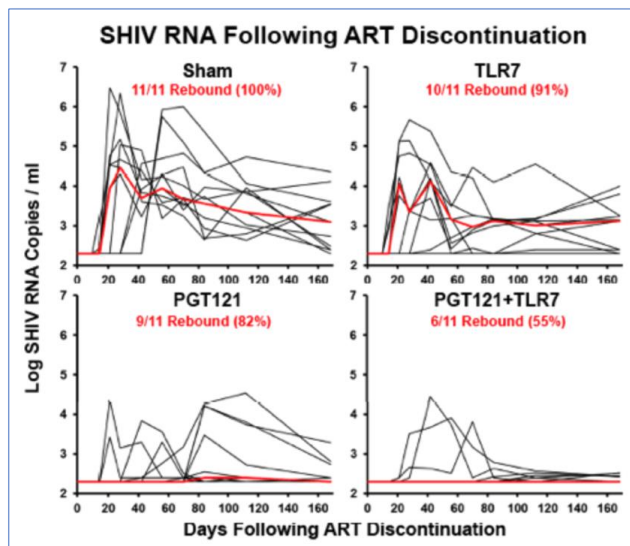
Methods

- SHIV infected (IR) then start ART (TDF/FTC/DTG) 1 week later and suppressed for 96 weeks
- 4 groups of 11 → Placebo, bNAb, TLR7, bNAb + TLR7



Results

- Study designed for bNAbs and TLR7 to be cleared from animals before interrupting ART → determine if these interventions could impact the reservoir without direct antiviral activity
- Blood and biopsy samples - showed there was no bNAbs more than 10 weeks before stopping ART
- Showed that no HIV specific CD8 T-cell responses in blood or lymph node before interrupting
- Undetectable HIV DNA in lymph nodes in combination group

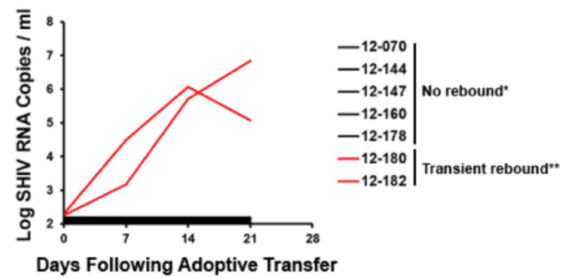


- 5 in combination arm didn't rebound for over 168 days
- Also lower peak and setpoint VLs in those that rebounded



No infection of
uninfected
monkeys with
adoptive
transfer

Adoptive Transfer of 30×10^6 LNCM+PBMC From Aviremic Monkeys (Day 140) into Naïve Recipients

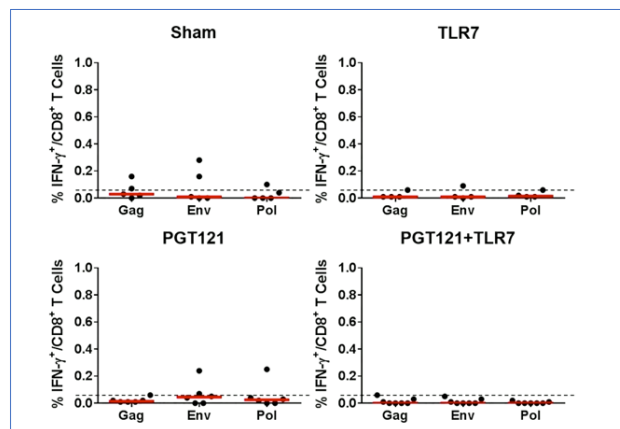


*4 of 5 from PGT121+TLR7 group

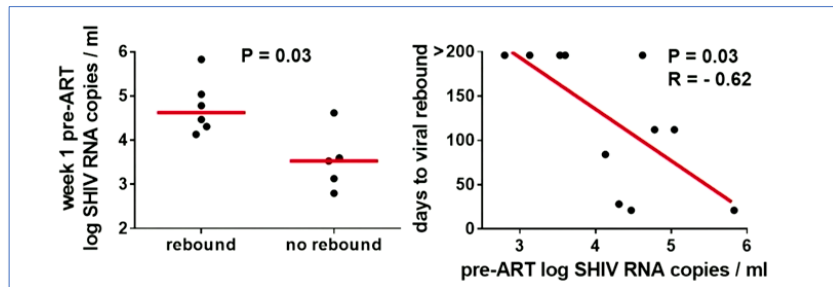
*1 of 2 from PGT121 alone group

**2 from PGT121+TLR7 group

No vaccinal effect (\uparrow CD8 T-cell responses) –
so briefly exposed to HIV and such prolonged
suppression on ART



Animals that don't rebound had the lowest viral loads at week 1 (3 years prior)



Conclusions

- Combination of PGT-121 and GS9620 had 5-fold delay in time to viral rebound and no viral rebound in 5 of 11 monkeys
- No residual PGT-121 to explain delay in rebound
- Mechanism unclear
 - May involve activation of infected CD4+ T-cells by GS-9620 and enhanced clearance by PGT-121
- No 'vaccinal effect'
- bNAb + immune stimulant may target reservoir

Combination Therapies with TLR7 Agonists

- PGT121. Engineered Fc receptor further and now called GS-9722 → completed dose escalation study in healthy volunteers. Planning for a study in HIV +ve in 2019
- Planning to combine a therapeutic vaccine and a TLR7 agonist in 2019 (sourcing a vaccine from external partners → Hookipa who have a CMV vaccine in arenavirus vector → working to develop a therapeutic vaccine with same arenavirus vector)
- Planning to combine bNAb GS-9722 with TLR7 agonist
- Developing a second bNAb



SenGupta NIH Cure 2018



The same bNAb now in PLHIV

Part	Group	mAb	Dose (mg/kg)	Route	HIV	ART	Viral Load (Log ₁₀ cp/ml)	PGT121 / Placebo (N)	Enrolled	
1	1	PGT121	3	IV	No	-	-	4 / 1	✓	
		PGT121	10	IV	No	-	-	4 / 1	✓	
		PGT121	30	IV	No	-	-	4 / 1	✓	
		PGT121	3	SC	No	-	-	4 / 1	✓	
	2	PGT121	3	IV	Yes	Yes	<1.7	4 / 1	✓	
		PGT121	10	IV	Yes	Yes	<1.7	4 / 1	✓	
		PGT121	30	IV	Yes	Yes	<1.7	4 / 1	✓	
		2	3	PGT121	30	IV	Yes	No	3.3 – 5	9 / -
PGT121	30			IV	Yes	No	2 – 3.3	6 / -	4 (6)	
	Total								43 / 7	48 (50)

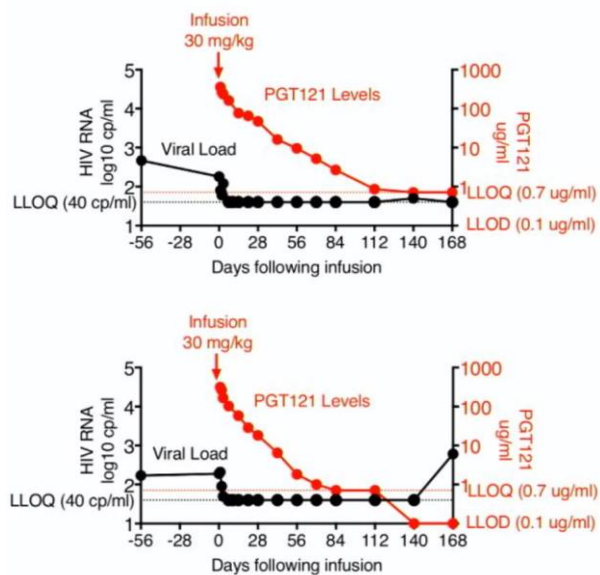
- Single infusion PGT-121 at different doses
- Safe. 5/9 people with viral load 3.3- 5 log₁₀ c/mL (high viral load) had 1.7 log₁₀ drop in viral load



Stephenson CROI 2019



2 people off ART with low viral load had suppression > 6 months



Combination intervention - 'Kick and Kill'

HIV therapeutic vaccine and Latency reversal

• **Treated Primary HIV infection:**

- lowest reservoirs, preserved immune responses

• **The Kick:**

- HDAC inhibitor Vorinostat

• **The Kill:**

- ChAdV63.HIVconsv and MVA.HIVconsv*

• **Design:**

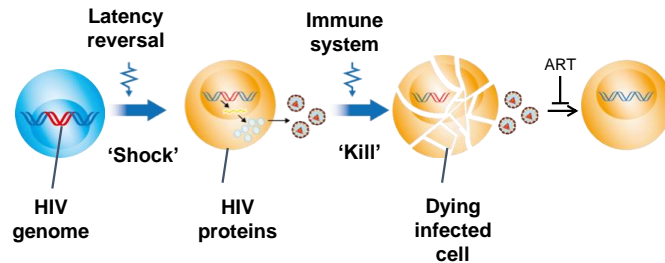
- Randomised control comparison with ART alone

• **Primary endpoint:**

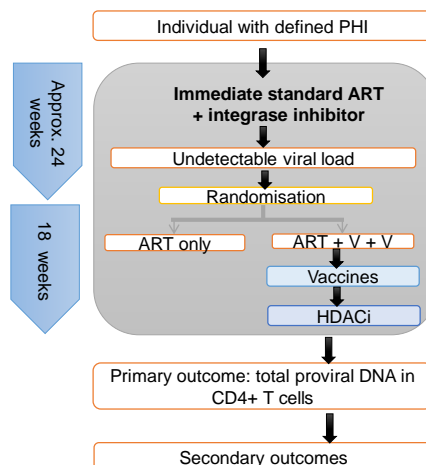
- Total HIV DNA in peripheral blood CD4+ T-cells at weeks 16 & 18 post randomisation

*Letourneau S Plos One 2007

RIVER study



RIVER - Study design



Vaccination:

Prime

ChAdV63.HIVconsv at randomisation

Boost MVA.HIVconsv

week 8 post-randomisation

Vorinostat

400mg od every 72 hours* total 10 doses

*Archin et al J Clin Invest 2017
Aug 1;127(8):3126-3135.

Description of participants at randomisation

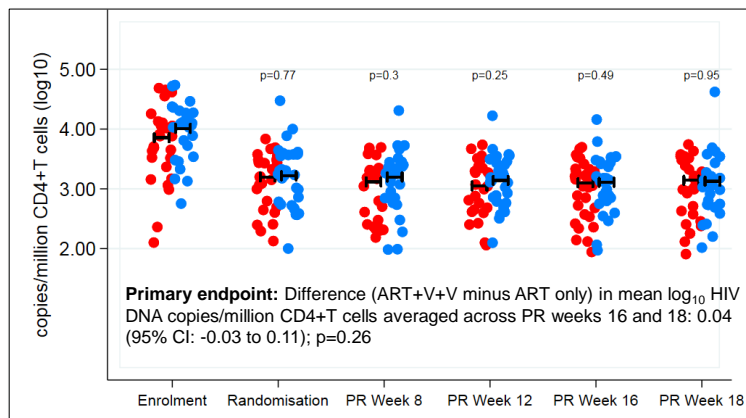
	ART only N = 30	ART + V + V N = 30	Total n = 60
Age (years)	31 (30,38)	35 (28,44)	32 (29,40)
Gender	30 (100%) male	30 (100%) male	60 (100%) male
Route of transmission			
MSM	26 (87%)	29 (97%)	55 (92%)
MSW	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	2 (3%)
Other	3 (10%)	0	3 (5%)
CD4 count (cells/mm³)	694 (561, 844)	710 (579, 759)	708 (568, 788)
HIV Viral Load (copies/mL)			
<50	29 (97%)	30 (100%)	59 (98%)
50 - <200	1 (3%)	0	1 (2%)
Weeks since PHI diagnosis to randomisation	28 (27,41)	28 (27,34)	28 (27,36)



Note: Numbers are N (%) or median (IQR)
Department of
Infectious Diseases



No effect (difference in HIV DNA) of intervention

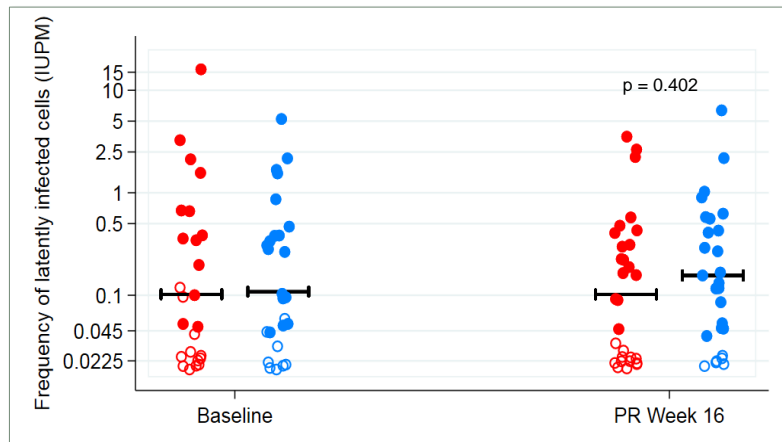


Department of
Infectious Diseases

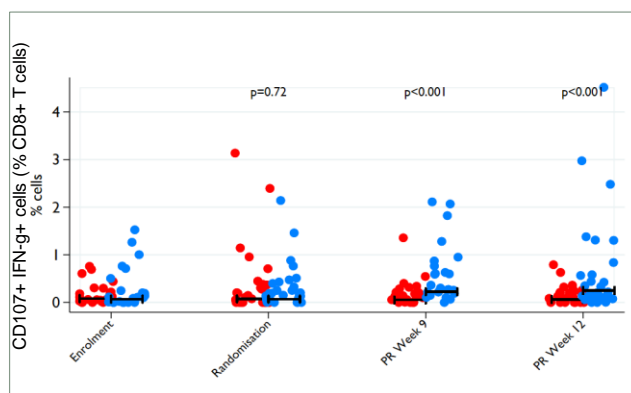
● ART only ● ART
+V+V



No effect by different measure of the HIV reservoir (Viral outgrowth assay)



ART + V + V boosts HIV-specific CD8+ T cells



Summary

- This approach to “kick and kill” did not lead to a reduction of the HIV reservoir over ART alone, as measured by total HIV DNA, 1 year after PHI
- Interventions were safe
- ART + V + V stimulated HIV-specific CD4 and CD8 T-cell responses
- Highlights importance of a control arm for this endpoint. Definitive result
- ? latency reversing agent not potent enough
- ? epitopes in the vaccine constructs were not the correct ones to recognize latently infected cells.



Post Treatment Control



Additional Slides



Vedolizumab



Anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ monoclonal antibody in macaques

- Pathway CD4+ T cells use to traffic into GIT is an interaction between integrin $\alpha 4\beta 7$ on CD4+ T cells, with MaDCAM-1 on GIT venules
- CD4+ T cells expressing high levels of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ preferentially targeted by HIV
- Monoclonal antibody against $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin shown to decrease risk of HIV acquisition in macaques

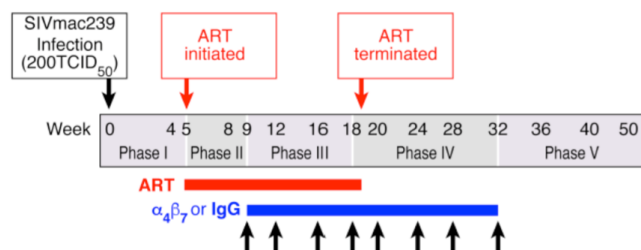


Byraredddy, Science, 2016



Anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ mAb in macaques

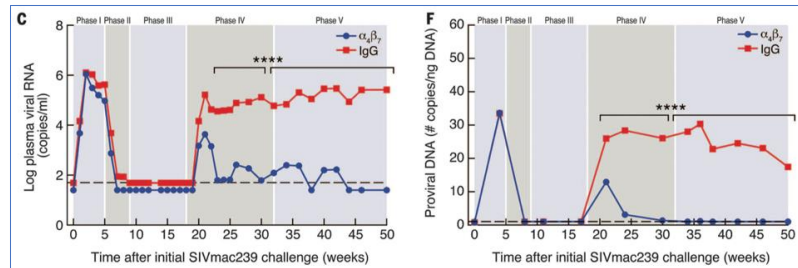
- 18 rhesus macaques infected with SIV



Byraredddy Science 2016



Anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ mAb in macaques



7 control animals

8 monkeys who received anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ achieved virologic control up to 23 months post interrupting ART

- 3 additional monkeys developed antibodies against anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ and excluded

Anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ mAb in macaques

- ART + $\alpha 4\beta 7$ mAb \rightarrow prolonged virologic control and restoration of CD4+ T cells
 - Mechanism - ? HIV takes up and expresses $\alpha 4\beta 7$ on virion after initial round of T-cell infection and replication. Subsequent $\alpha 4\beta 7$ expressing virions are bound by the monoclonal Ab¹
- Control persisted long after $\alpha 4\beta 7$ mAb treatment was terminated
- Improvement in some T-cell subsets / changes in anti-HIV Ab response / increased NK cells / Reduced damage to GIT

Strategy post the 2016 paper

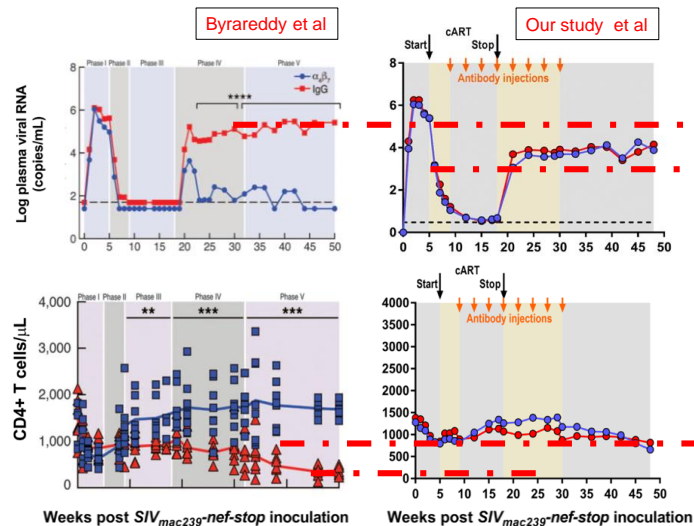
- Replicate the macaque study at NIH
- Human study



2 “identical” macaque studies

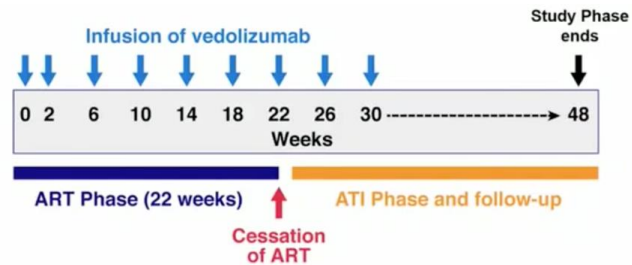
Difference not explained by viral stock, lot of antibody used or developing anti-drug antibodies.

Genetic or other differences in the macaques or other factors, including differences in virus/host balance related to differential kinetics and pathway of Nef-STOP repair, may have contributed to the differences



Human study

- Open label, single arm
- N=18
- CD4 > 450, virological suppression for > 2 years
- Restart criteria
 - VL > 1000 c/mL for > 4 weeks
 - 30% drop in CD4 or CD4 < 350
 - OI



Compared study patients to placebo group of a therapeutic vaccine RCT

? Why different to the first monkey study
 → Different Fc portion of Abs
 → Different host
 → Different restart criteria

Effect of Vedolizumab on Plasma Viral Rebound Following Analytical Treatment Interruption

