Mapping Determinants of Virus Neutralization and Viral Escape for Rational Design of a Hepatitis C Virus Vaccine.

Abstract

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) continues to spread worldwide with an annual increase of 1.75 million new infections. The virus can be treated effectively through the currently available direct-acting antivirals. However, hundreds of millions of people are still infected with the virus, and the current treatment regimens are not ideal. The development of a vaccine would be a major breakthrough in the management of the disease. In this study, we aimed to identify key regions on the viral capsid that are important for neutralizing antibodies. By understanding how these regions are targeted by the host immune system, we can develop vaccines that will be more effective in protecting against HCV infection.

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