A novel strategy for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted viruses

Published date: Feb. 1, 2012

Technology description

MARKETS ADDRESSED

Since vaccines giving mucosal protection are probably many years away, and condoms, although highly effective in preventing infection by sexually transmitted disease causing microbes, have failed to become generally accepted by males in many parts of the world, protective means are required which are under the control of the woman and can, if necessary, be used without the knowledge or consent of the male partner. Vaginal microbicides would meet this requirement and could not only protect the female's reproductive tract against infectious agents transmitted by the male, but could also protect the male's genital mucosa against possible infectious agents from the female.

INNOVATIONS

A novel strategy for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted viruses has been developed by Dr. David Knipe that topically administers siRNA to the vagina for use as a microbicide. Using siRNA targeting HSV-2 UL27 and UL29, viral replication and HCV associated cytokine activity was mitigated. Research indicates that silencing activity remained for a period of nine (9) days and was well tolerated in murine models. Results suggest that siRNAs are attractive candidates for the active component of a microbicide designed to prevent viral infection or transmission. Further research may lead to systemic anti-viral RNAi therapeutics.

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