Use Of EBNA1 As A Novel Vaccine Antigen

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Technology description

Summary

Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) is a common human virus, which infects over 95% of the adult population. Normally the immune system keeps this virus under control, however, when the -specific immune control is altered, it can contribute to various disease conditions such as infectious mononucleosis, different forms of cancer (Burkitt's lymphoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma) and several autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and systemic lupus erythematosus. Our scientists have discovered that a major nuclear antigen of EBV called EBNA1 elicits a strong CD4+ T cell response against EBV. They have shown that EBNA1-specific T cell responses can eliminate EBV-associated tumor cells. Furthermore, they have demonstrated that elevated EBNA1-specific T and B cell responses are diagnostic markers associated with multiple sclerosis. In conclusion, EBNA1 has great potential as a vaccine antigen.

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