

Analysis of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from HIV- and HIV+ chancroid patients by *Haemophilus ducreyi* antigens

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Abstract:

The cellular immune responses to fractionated *Haemophilus ducreyi* antigens, coated on latex beads, were assessed in patients with chancroid and in controls, using an in vitro lymphocyte proliferation assay. Several fractions of *H. ducreyi* antigen revealed stimulating activity. However, only the molecular size ranges 91-78 kD, 59-29 kD, and 25-21 kD induced proliferation that may be specifically related to *H. ducreyi* infection. Lymphocytes from four HIV- patients, successfully treated for chancroid, were not stimulated by *H. ducreyi* antigen. In general, lymphocytes from HIV+ chancroid patients were less responsive to *H. ducreyi* antigen compared with those from HIV- chancroid patients. However, two HIV-infected patients showed exceptionally strong responses to high molecular weight fractions. To our knowledge this is the first report demonstrating that *H. ducreyi* contains specific T cell-stimulating antigens. Based on this work, further identification and purification of the T cell antigens is feasible