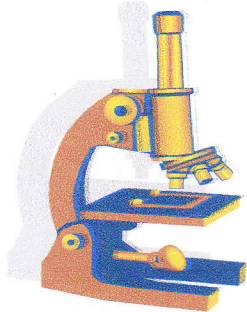


11/08

**THE ROLE OF RECOMBINANT ADENOVIRUS TYPE 5  
EXPRESSING IL-12 AND 4 AND TH<sub>1</sub> AND TH<sub>2</sub> IN  
LEISHMANIA MAJOR PROTECTION IN BALB/C MICE**



**RESEARCH CARRIED OUT AT KEMRI - <sup>Nairobi</sup> ANIROBI**

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## ABSTRACT

Experimental infection of the susceptible BALB/C (H-2) mouse with the intracellular parasite *leishmania major* induces a predominant Th<sub>2</sub> type T-cell response that eventually leads to death. In contrast, the resistant B10 D<sub>2</sub> (H-2) strain develops Th<sub>1</sub> cells that control parasite replication and disease. In this study, we tested the ability of recombinant adenovirus vector expressing IL-12 to skew the immune response in a Th<sub>1</sub> direction and prevent <sup>leish</sup>leishmaniasis in susceptible mice. [The T cell type 1 (Th<sub>1</sub>) response is essential to resist leishmaniasis whereas the Th<sub>2</sub> response in a Th<sub>1</sub> direction and prevent leishmaniasis in susceptible mice.] [the I helper cell type 1 (Th<sub>1</sub>) response is essential to resist leishmaniasis whereas the Th<sub>2</sub> response favour the disease. Paradoxically, antigens associated with an early Th<sub>2</sub> response have been found to be highly protective if the Th<sub>1</sub> response to them is generated before infection. We report that BALB/C mice treated with the Ad511-12 vector on the same day as parasitic challenge are significantly protected against leishmaniasis and acquired long-lasting immunity, because upon re-challenge with *L. major* parasites they were resistance to disease. The vector derived IL-12 expression was transient and highly localized to the tissue after i.m injection; it caused an increase in the number of Ag-specific IFN- $\gamma$  secreting lymphocyte and enhanced NK cell activity in the draining popliteal node. In contrast resistant B10.D<sub>2</sub> mice given i.m injection with recombinant adenovirus-expressing IL-4 displayed greater susceptibility to disease, and severe lesions were produced in some of the infected animals. These results suggests the potential use of recombinant adenoviruses Expressing cytokine as potent immunomodulatory agents for the generation of protective immune response against intracellular pathogen and also finding disease associated Th<sub>2</sub> antigens and inducing a Th<sub>1</sub> immune response to them using defined vaccination protocols is an interesting unorthodox alternative approach to the discovery of a leishmania vaccine.

*Why use unorthodox approach.*

*\* lacking → objective definition  
→ Method  
→ conclusion  
→ concentrated on background & results (which are not quantified, only spelt)*