

“Pathogenesis of HCV-related lymphoproliferative disorders”



Laura Gragnani

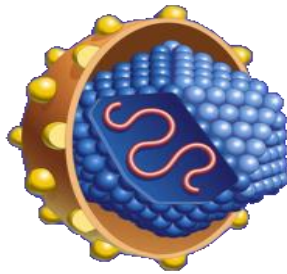


MASVE



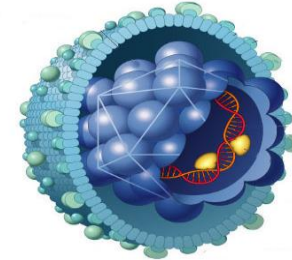
HBV & HCV- different features

HCV



- CHRONIC IN 85% OF THOSE INFECTED
- NO VACCINE AVAILABLE
- GENOME: RNA
- SEXUAL TRANSMISSION: VERY LOW RATE
- COMPLETELY ERADICABLE BY THERAPY

HBV

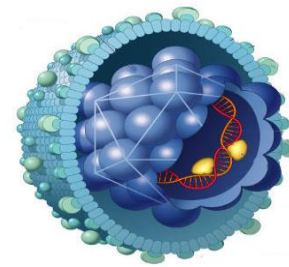
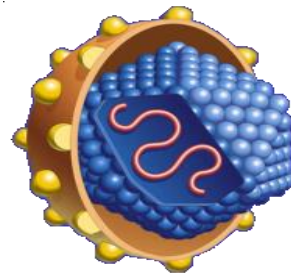


- CHRONIC CARRIER STATE IN 6% OF INFECTED
- VACCINE AVAILABLE
- GENOME: DNA
- SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
- NOT COMPLETELY ERADICABLE (INTEGRATION)



HBV & HCV- similarities

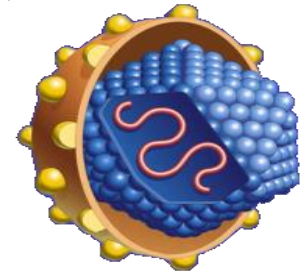
HCV & HBV



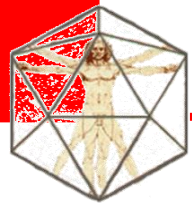
- SAME HIGH TROPISM FOR LIVER CELLS (HEPATOCYTES)
- SIMILAR NATURAL HISTORY IN TERMS OF LIVER DAMAGE DURING CHRONIC INFECTION
- BOTH CAN CAUSE HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA (HCC), THE MOST DIFFUSED LIVER CANCER



HCV- general features

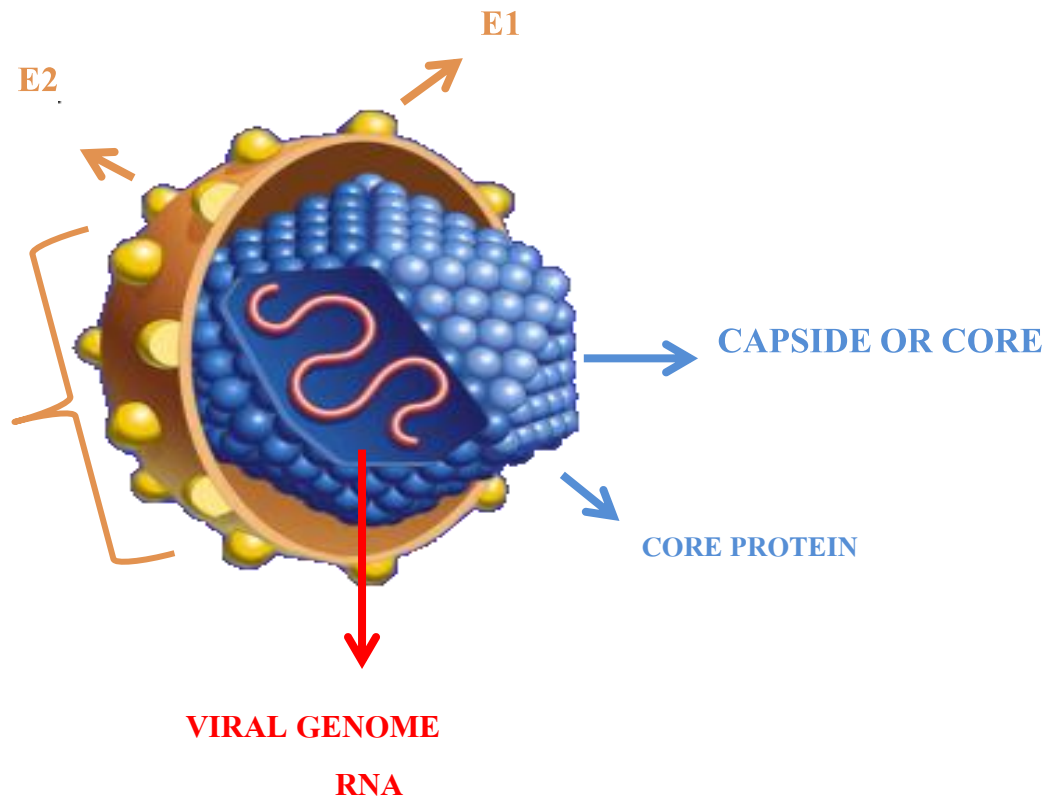


- MAINLY TRANSMITTED VIA BLOOD (TRANSFUSIONS, INTRAVENOUS DRUG USE, USE OF CONTAMINATED TOOLS, ETC...)
- THE GENOME IS A SINGLE STRAND-RNA
- 6 DIFFERENT GENOTYPES ARE DESCRIBED (WITH A DIFFERENT SENSIBILITY TO DRUGS)



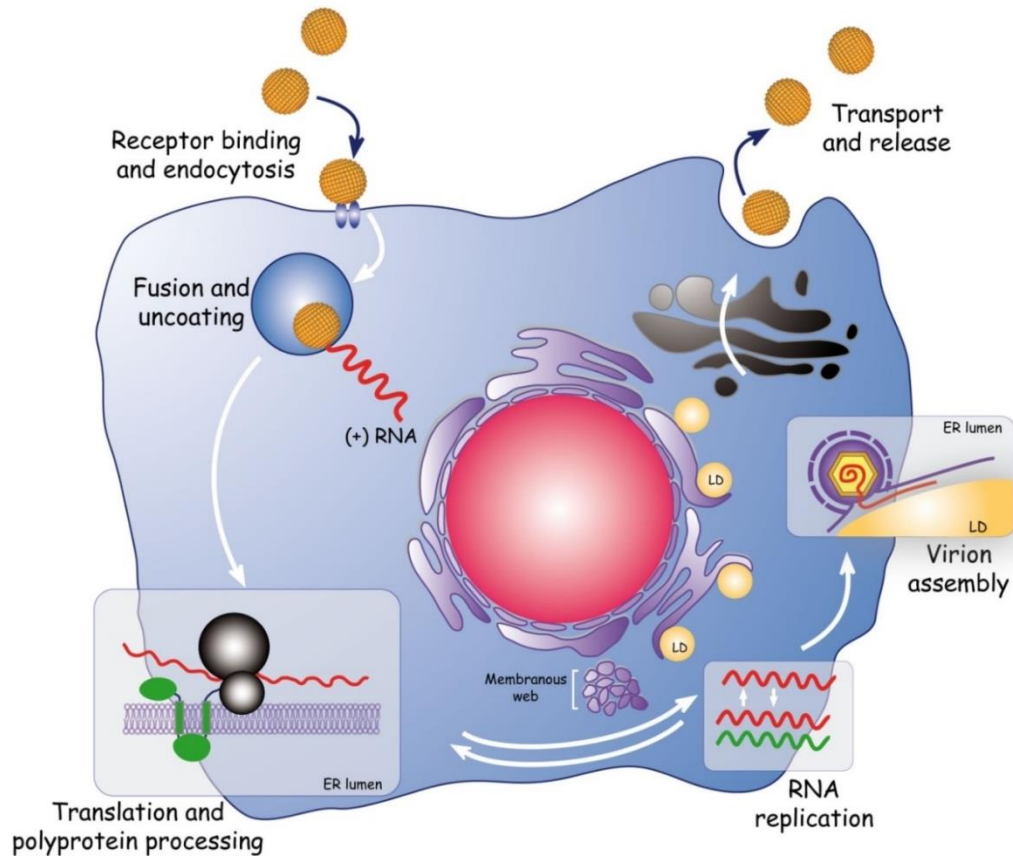
HCV structure

VIRAL ENVELOPE
(LIPIDS & GLYCOPROTEINS)





HCV life cycle

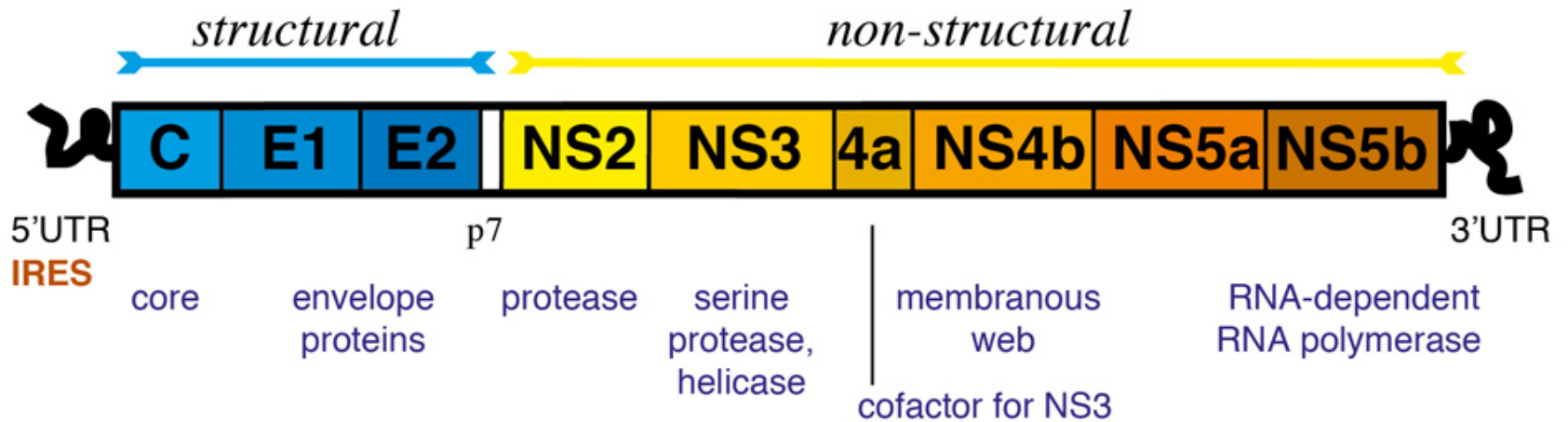




HCV genome

positive-strand RNA virus

9600 nucleotides - 3011 amino acids





Progression of liver damage

PROGRESSION OF LIVER DAMAGE

HEALTHY LIVER



FIBROTIC LIVER



CIRRHOTIC LIVER



LIVER CANCER



A healthy liver is able to perform its normal functions effectively, e.g. aiding digestion and breaking down harmful drugs and poisons.

Continuous inflammation of the liver caused by hepatitis C can lead to fibrosis – the formation of scar tissue within the liver.

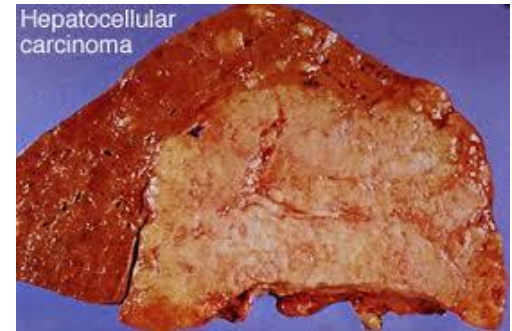
Extensive scarring can block the flow of blood through the liver and cause liver function to deteriorate over time - this is called cirrhosis.

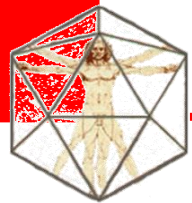
Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver cancer – the formation of a malignant tumour in the liver.



Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)

- Worldwide, HCC is the 5th most common cancer and the 3rd cause of death for cancer.
- HCC generally has a fulminant course, poor response to treatment, low resectability rate, high recurrence after resection/transplantation, poor prognosis.
- **More than 70% of HCCs have a viral etiology**
- The great majority of HCC develops on liver cirrhosis

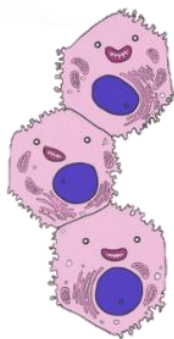




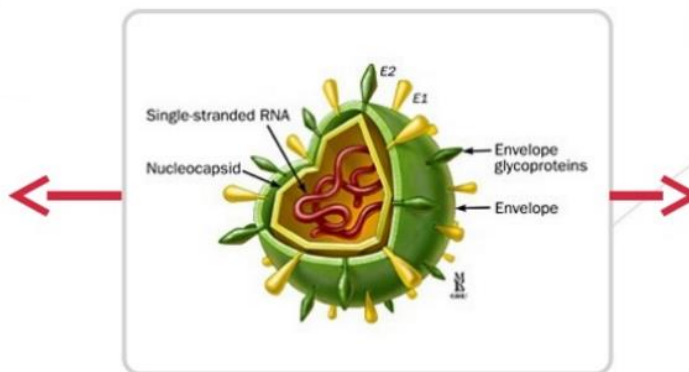
HCV chronic infection: more than one target cell

Hepatocyte

Choo. Science 1989



- Hepatitis
- Cirrhosis
- Hepatocarcinoma



Lymphocyte

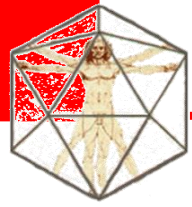
Zignego. J Hepatol 1992

Ferri. Blood 1993



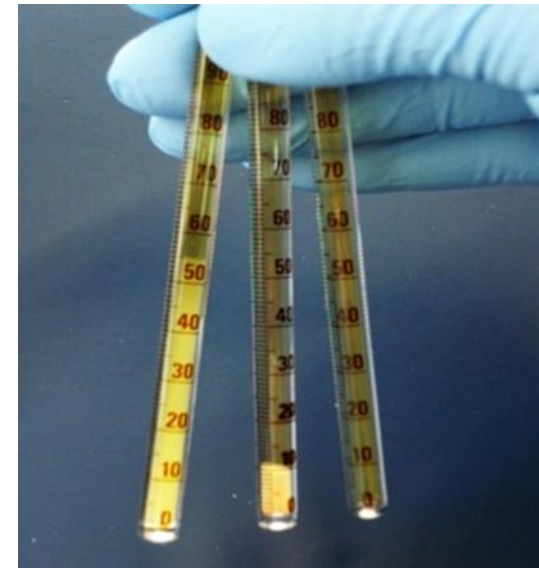
- Cryoglobulinemia
- Auto-Ab
- B-NHL

Courtesy of Patrice Cacoub; modified



Mixed Cryoglobulinemia - MC

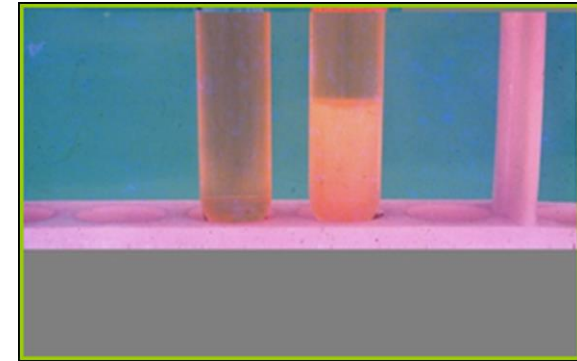
- MC is a benign B-cell Lymphoproliferative Disorder (LPD) characterized by circulating Immune complexes **called cryoglobulins (CGs)**.
- **The CGs** include a **monoclonal (Type II) or polyclonal (Type III) IgM** and polyclonal IgGs.
- The IgM, with Rheumatoid Factor (RF) activity, is an autoantibody: that's why the MC is an autoimmune disorder too.





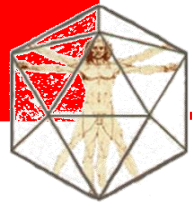
Mixed Cryoglobulinemia - MC

The cryoglobulins are so called because they precipitate in the blood serum when the temperature goes below 37° C



Strong association between HCV and MC (70-90%).

In Italy: MC-HCV+ >95%



Cryoglobulinemic Vasculitis - CV

Is the consequence of a systemic vasculitis (arterioles, capillaries, venules)

- Skin/Diffuse Vasculitis
- Joints
- MPG-nephritis
- Peripheral Neuropathy
- Lung alveolitis
- Endocrine disorders
- ...



Eradication of viral infection generally coincide with the resolution of the MC syndrome, so the first-line therapeutic option is considered the antiviral treatment.



Cryoglobulinemic Vasculitis - CV

Why is cryo-vasculitis a so important and interesting model to study?



CV IS A CLINICALLY BENIGN BUT PRELYMPHOMATOUS CONDITION:

The overall risk of NHL in HCV-infected patients with symptomatic MC is greatly increased compared to the general population (up to **35 times** in an Italian multicenter study).



HCV chronic infection & lymphoma

- ✓ In 1994, a high prevalence of HCV infection in Italian patients with lymphoma was first reported in a limited cohort of patients
- ✓ In the last two decades, several pieces of evidence proved the association between HCV infection (with or without MC) and the occurrence of hematologic malignancies, mostly B-NHL
- ✓ A clear gradient of HCV-related lymphoma from North to South was also shown as for HCV infection
- ✓ Dedicated meta-analyses were able to confirm (although with different degrees), an increased risk of lymphoma in HCV infected subjects



HCV chronic infection & lymphoma

Table 1 Infections associated with non-Hodgkin lymphoma

Infectious agent	Lymphoma subtype
Lymphocyte-transforming viruses	
Epstein–Barr virus	Burkitt lymphoma
	AIDS-associated NHLs (especially CNS NHL, DLBCL)
	Posttransplant lymphoproliferative disorder
	Extranodal NK/T-cell NHL
Human herpesvirus 8	Primary effusion lymphoma and related DLBCLs
	MCD-associated plasmablastic NHL
Human T lymphotropic virus type I	Acute T-cell leukaemia/lymphoma
Agents that cause immunosuppression	
Human immunodeficiency virus	AIDS-associated NHLs
Agents that cause chronic immune stimulation	
<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>	Burkitt lymphoma
Hepatitis C virus	DLBCL, lymphoplasmacytic NHL, marginal zone NHL
Hepatitis B virus	Uncertain
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	Gastric MALT NHL
<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>	Small intestine MALT NHL
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>	Ocular adnexa MALT NHL
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	Cutaneous MALT NHL

NHL, non-Hodgkin lymphoma; AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; CNS NHL, central nervous system non-Hodgkin lymphoma; DLBCL, diffuse large B cell lymphoma; MCD, multicentric Castleman disease; MALT, mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue.

Symposium

Journal of INTERNAL MEDICINE

doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2796.2008.02031.x

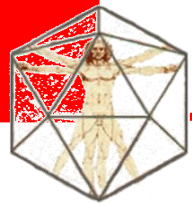
Infectious aetiology of Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas: a review of the epidemiological evidence

■ H. Hjalgrim¹ & E. A. Engels²

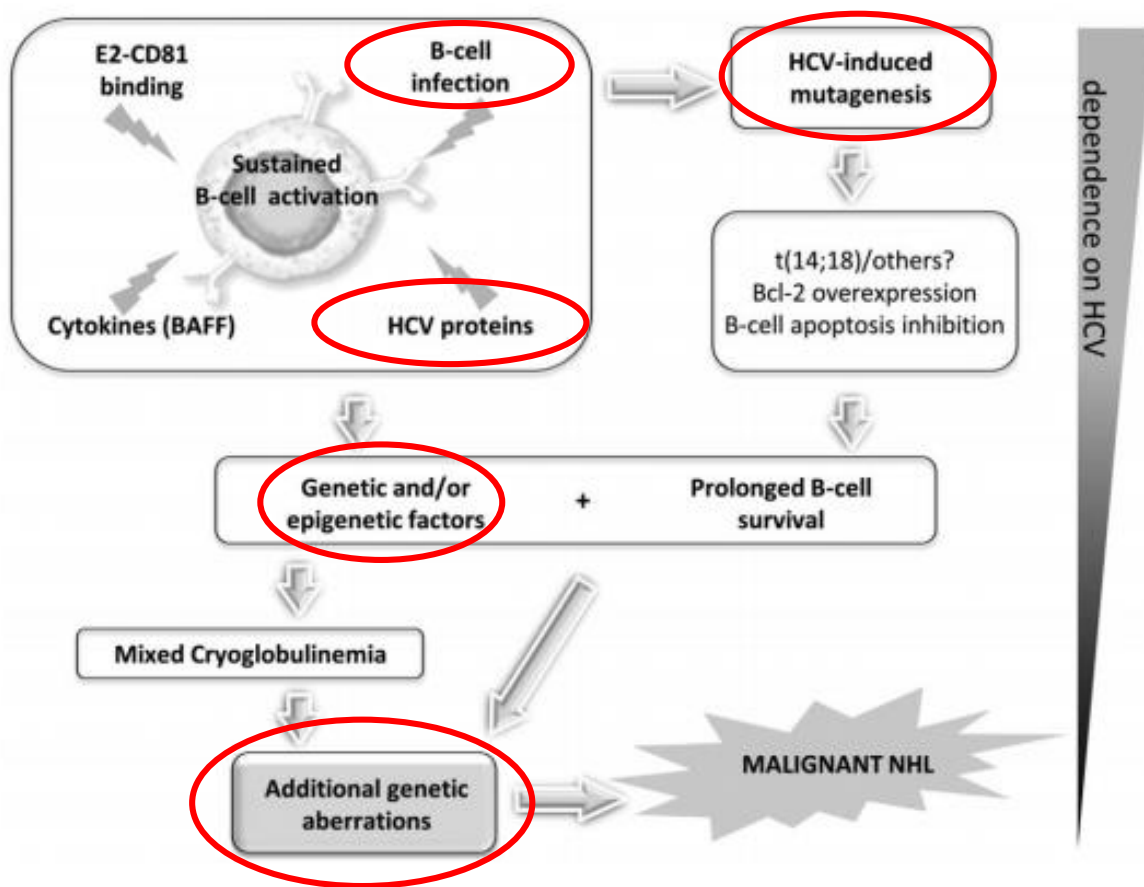


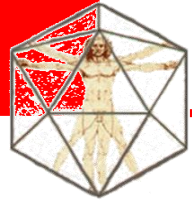
Hepatitis C virus

DLBCL, lymphoplasmacytic NHL, marginal zone NHL



HCV related LPDs: a multifactorial pathogenesis





The HCV lymphotropism

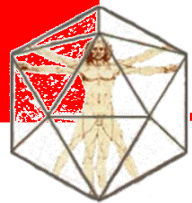


HCV lymphotropism

The ability of HCV to infect lymphoid cells was widely discussed.



- ✓ Technical problems in identifying HCV-RNA replicative intermediate in PBMCs;
- ✓ Extracellular HCV-RNA contamination.



HCV lymphotropism



ARTICLE

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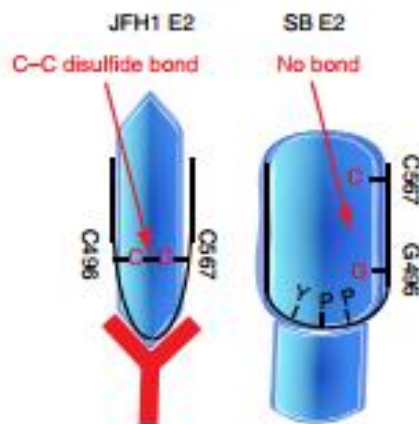
DOI: 10.1038/ncomms13882

OPEN

Hepatitis C virus has a genetically determined lymphotropism through co-receptor B7.2

Chia-Lin Chen¹, Jeffrey Y. Huang¹, Chun-Hsiang Wang¹, Stanley M. Tahara¹, Lin Zhou¹, Yasuteru Kondo¹, Joel Schechter², Lishan Su³, Michael M.C. Lai^{1,4}, Takaji Wakita⁵, François-Loïc Cosset⁶, Jae U. Jung¹ & Keigo Machida¹

Isolated from liver



Hepatotropic co-receptor Lymphotropic co-receptor

Isolated from B cells



...from a lymphoma patient

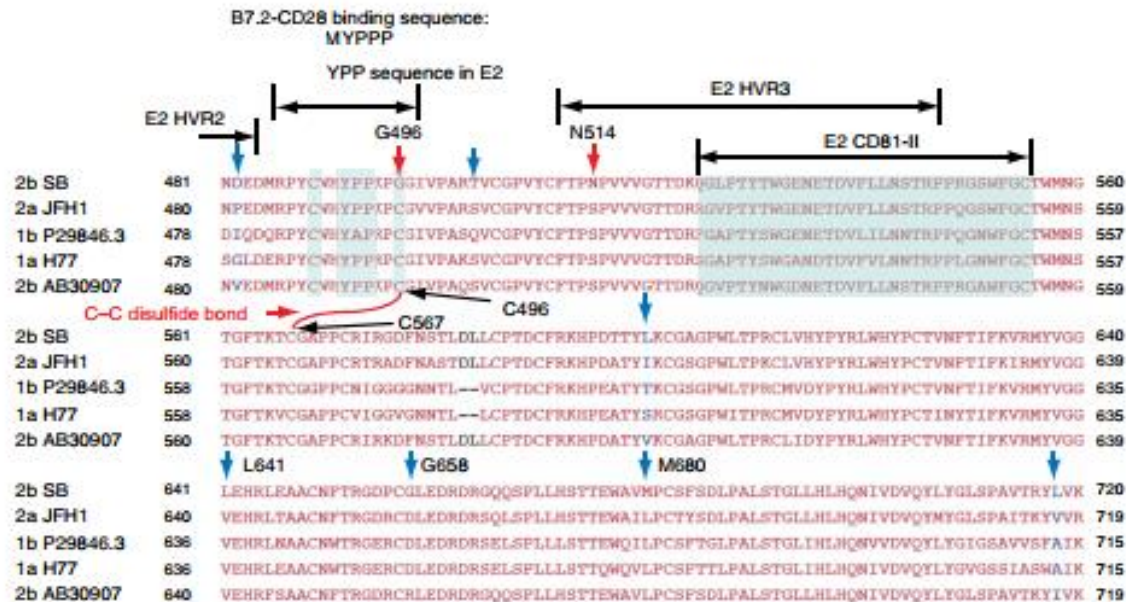


HCV lymphotropism

Between the SB and JFH1 strains, were found:

- Differences in viral envelope sequence (coding for E1 and E2 proteins)
- Five nucleotide differences within 5' -UTR

These differences mean that a specific HCV strain has a genetically determined lymphotropism

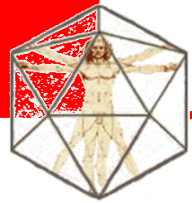




HCV lymphotropism

Summarizing...

- In this study, was established the genetic basis for lymphotropism of HCV infection;
- The viral envelope and 5' -UTR sequences of the lymphotropic HCV strain were responsible for the lymphotropism;
- B7.2 (CD86) is a co-receptor for observed HCV SB strain tropism towards memory B cell.



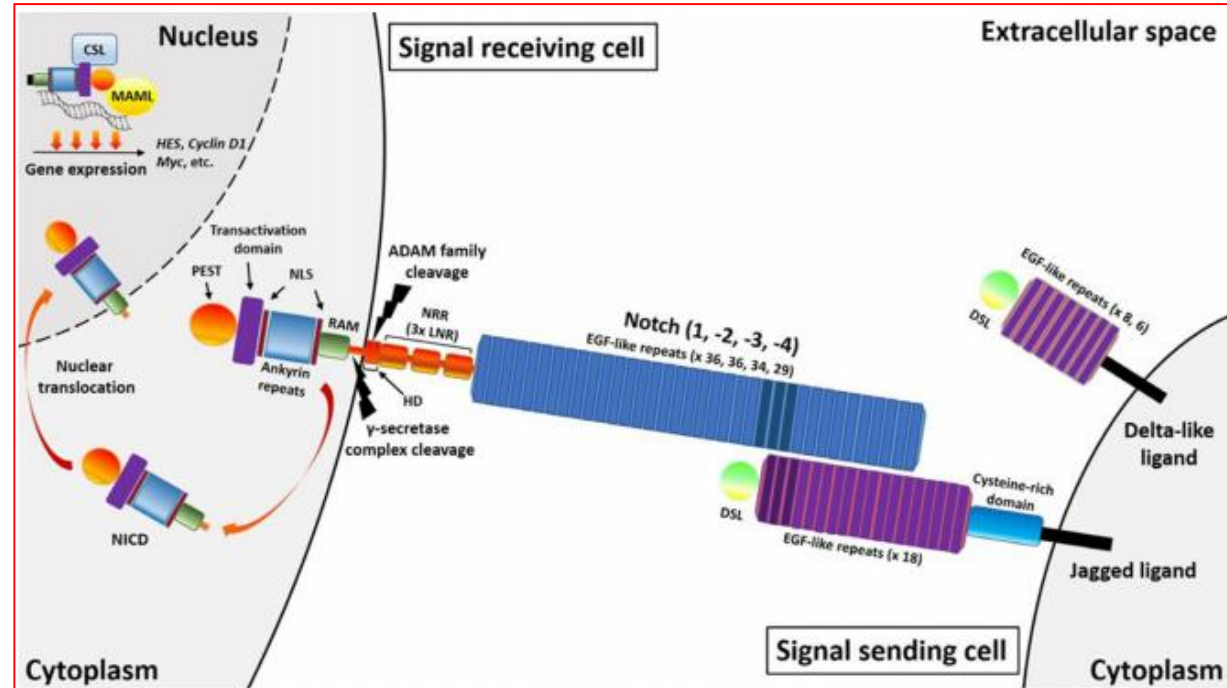
Notch family genes



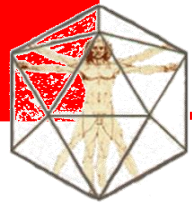
NOTCH family

Notch is an evolutionarily conserved signaling pathway consisting, in humans of a family of four transmembrane receptors and five ligands that allow cell-cell communication.

D'Souza et al, Curr Top Dev Biol 2010;
Kovall et al, Curr Top Dev Biol 2010



From Gu Y *et al*, Oncotarget 2016



NOTCH family

- ✓ The role of Notch has been well characterized in the development of different tissues such as the processes of hematopoiesis and angiogenesis.
- ✓ This highly coordinated signaling system controls many aspects of cell biology, including differentiation, proliferation and death.
- ✓ Importantly, the role of aberrant Notch signaling, i.e. due to DNA mutations, was reported in hematological malignancies.

Karanu *et al*, Leukemia 2003; Pancewicz *et al* BMC cancer 2011; Vercauteren *et al*, Blood 2004; Willander K, *et al*, BMC Cancer 2013

Notch genes germ line and somatic mutations also seem to be involved in HCV-related lymphoma pathogenesis



A genome-wide association study



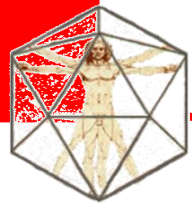
Genes and Immunity (2014), 1–6
© 2014 Macmillan Publishers Limited All rights reserved 1466-4879/14
www.nature.com/gene

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Genome-wide association study of hepatitis C virus- and cryoglobulin-related vasculitis

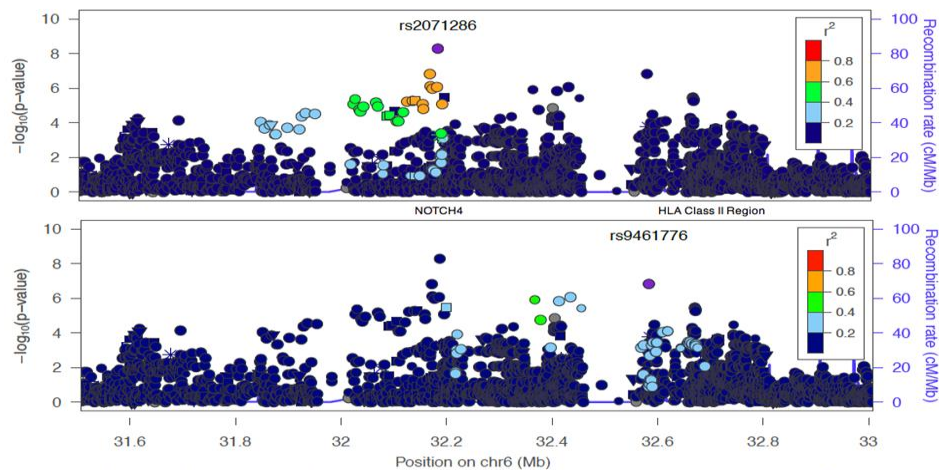
AL Zignego¹, GL Wojcik², P Cacoub^{3,4,5,6}, M Visentini⁷, M Casato⁷, A Mangia⁸, R Latanich⁹, ED Charles¹⁰, L Gragnani¹, B Terrier³, V Piazzola⁸, LB Dustin^{10,15}, SI Khakoo¹¹, MP Busch¹², GM Lauer¹³, AY Kim¹³, L Alric¹⁴, DL Thomas⁹ and P Duggal²

- 899,641 markers from the Illumina HumanOmni1-Quad chip were analyzed
- 356 HCV RNA positive individuals with MC-related vasculitis
- 447 ethnically-matched, HCV RNA positive controls
- Replication of select SNPs was conducted using 91 cases and 180 controls



A genome-wide association study

chromosome 6 analysis



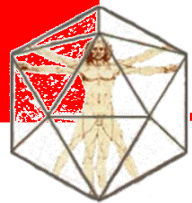
Independent signals are found at **NOTCH4** and **HLA-human leukocyte antigen -DRB1/DQA1**

HLA-DRB1/DQA1-rs9461776

Each additional copy of the risk allele (G) was associated with **2.14 times the odds** of MC-related vasculitis.

notch 4-rs2071286

The notch 4 (**rs2071286**) conferred **2.16 times the odds** of having MC-related vasculitis



NOTCH mutations in HCV-NHL: our experience

www.impactjournals.com/oncotarget/

Oncotarget, Advance Publications 2017

Notch4 and mhc class II polymorphisms are associated with hcv-related benign and malignant lymphoproliferative diseases

Laura Gragnani^{1,*}, Elisa Fognani^{1,4,*}, Valli De Re², Massimo Libra³, Adriana Garozzo³, Patrizio Caini¹, Guia Cerretelli¹, Andrea Giovannelli¹, Serena Lorini¹, Monica Monti¹, Silvia Bagnoli⁴, Irene Piaceri⁴, Anna Linda Zignego¹

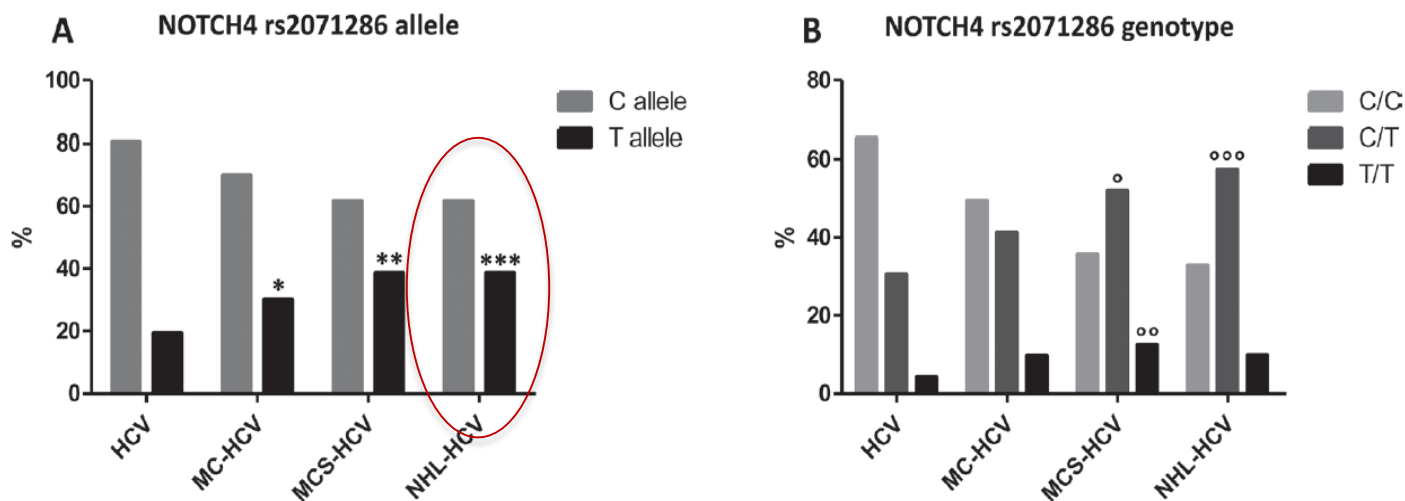
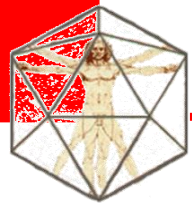


Figure 1: (Panel A) NOTCH4 rs2071286 allele frequency; * $p = 0.004$; ** $p = 0.0002$; *** $p = 0.0006$; (Panel B) NOTCH4 rs2071286 genotype frequency; ^o $p = 0.008$; ^{oo} $p = 0.0122$; ^{ooo} $p = 0.006$.

- ✓ **Significant association between rs2071286 MAF with increased risk for NHL**
- ✓ **Potential usefulness as non-invasive lymphoma risk markers in HCV+ patients**

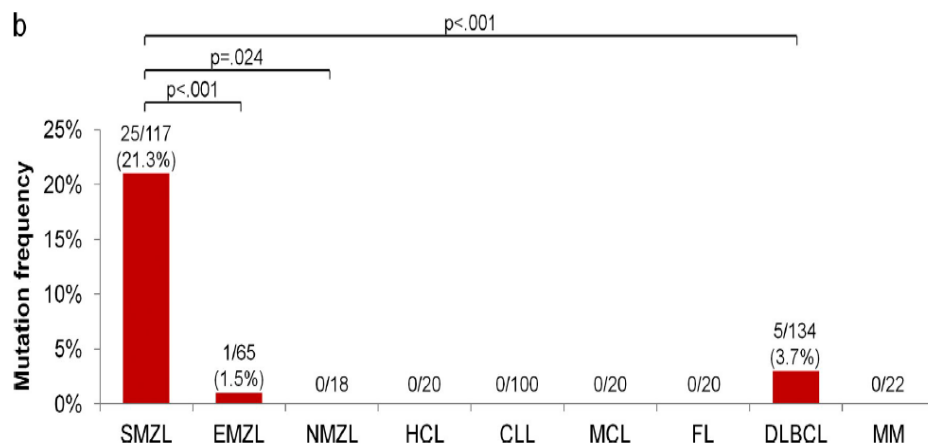


NOTCH family mutations in lymphomas

JEM
2012
Rossi D. et.

The coding genome of splenic marginal zone lymphoma: activation of *NOTCH2* and other pathways regulating marginal zone development

- ✓ Mutations in NOTCH family genes have been found in 30% of SMZL cases
- ✓ *NOTCH2*, a gene required for marginal-zone (MZ) B cell development
- ✓ *NOTCH2* mutations are the most frequent lesions in SMZL, accounting for ~20% of cases

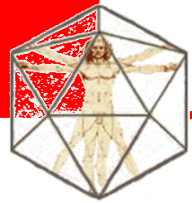


***NOTCH2* mutations are specific for SMZL, very rare in DLBCL, not present in other histotypes**



NOTCH family mutations in HCV-lymphomas

**OVERALL, THIS DATA SUGGESTS THAT AT LEAST A FRACTION
OF HCV-POSITIVE DLBCL MAY REPRESENT THE
TRANSFORMED PHASE OF AN MZL CLONE OR THE
COEXISTENCE OF HIGH AND LOW GRADE COMPONENTS.**

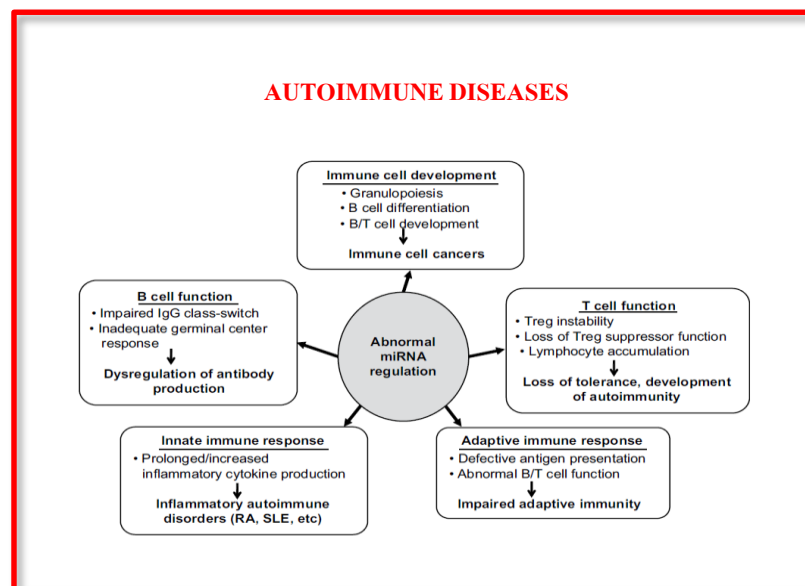
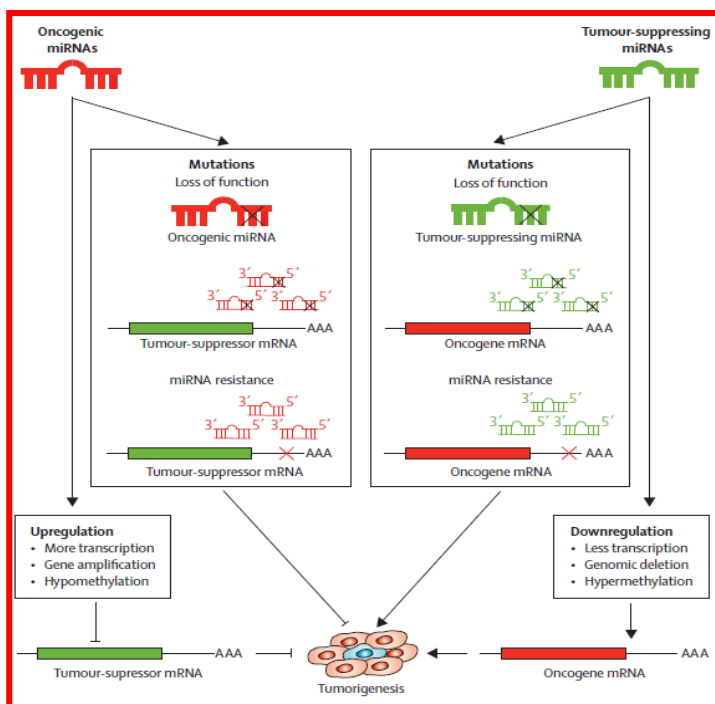


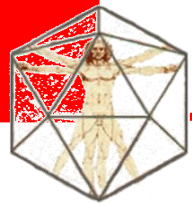
Epigenetic regulation: role of miRNAs



The epigenetic issue-the microRNAs

BINDING TO A COMPLEMENTARY mRNA OF A TARGET GENE THE microRNA INDUCES ITS DEGRADATION AND PREVENT THE FINAL PROTEIN EXPRESSION.





The epigenetic issue-the microRNAs

Dysregulation of global microRNA expression in splenic marginal zone lymphoma and influence of chronic hepatitis C virus infection

Leukemia, 2012

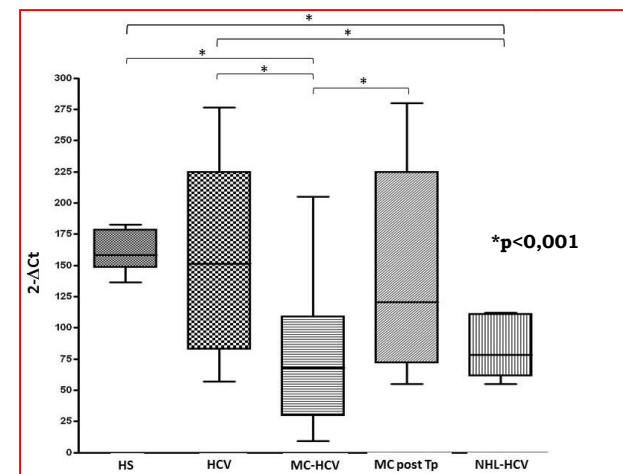
J Peveling-Oberhag^{1,2}, G Crisman³, A Schmidt⁴, C Döring², M Lucioni⁵, L Arcaini⁶, S Rattotti⁶, S Hartmann², A Piiper¹, W-P Hofmann¹, M Paulli⁶, R Küppers⁴, S Zeuzem¹ and M-L Hansmann²

OUR EXPERIENCE:

The down-regulation of mir-26b in PBMC from both HCV-NHL and CV patients

&

the restoration of mir-26b levels after the virological and clinical resolution of CV



miR26-b

SUGGEST:

- **A role in pathogenesis of HCV-related lymphoproliferation**
- **A prognostic value (evolution/response to therapy)**

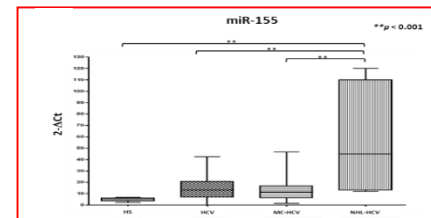
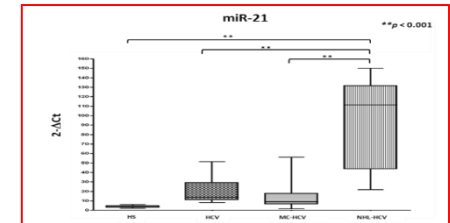
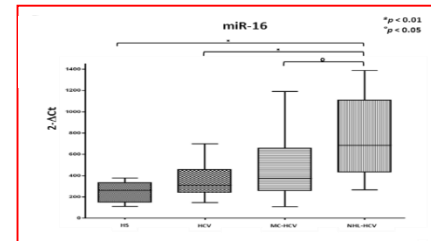


The epigenetic issue-the microRNAs

the up-regulation of

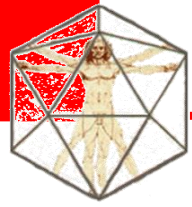
miR-16, miR-21 and miR-155

in PBMCs from HCV-NHL but not in HCV-CV and healthy subjects



SUGGESTS:

- A role in HCV-related lymphomagenesis
- A prognostic value



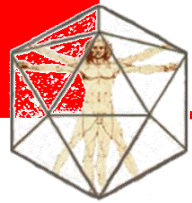
Summary of deregulated miRNAs

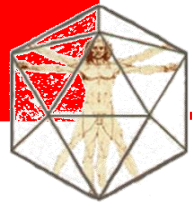
	CV	LYMPHOMA
miR-26b	●	●
miR-146	●	●
miR-155	●	●
miR-21	●	●
miR-16	●	●
miR-17	●	●
miR-18a	●	●
miR-19a	●	●
miR-19b	●	●
miR-20a	●	●
miR-92a	●	●

GREEN not deregulated compared to controls

RED deregulated (up- or down-) compared to controls

**Chronic antigenic stimulation
&
The role of viral proteins**





Chronic antigenic stimulation

HCV-related LPDs are characterized by the **clonal expansion of B-cell populations**, mostly in the liver and, less frequently, in the bone marrow or blood

Sansonno et al 1998; Racanelli et al. 2001

The similarities in rearranged Ig genes present in B-cells from MCS patients and from HCV B-cell NHL suggest that **the antigens involved in promoting type II MCS are the same as those involved in B-cell NHL development**

Ivanovski et al 1998; De Re et al. 2000

The HCV E2 and NS3 proteins were proposed as the potential antigens sustaining the expansion of B cell population in different LPDs

Quinn et al 2001; De Re et al. 2006



Chronic antigenic stimulation



blood

2014 123: 1512-1515
doi:10.1182/blood-2013-10-532895 originally published
online January 21, 2014

B-cell receptors expressed by lymphomas of hepatitis C virus (HCV)–infected patients rarely react with the viral proteins

Patrick P. Ng, Chiung-Chi Kuo, Stanley Wang, Shirit Einav, Luca Arcaini, Marco Paulli, Carol S. Portlock, Joseph Marcotrigiano, Alexander Tarr, Jonathan Ball, Ronald Levy and Shoshana Levy

- ✓ seem to exclude the dependence of lymphoma cell BCR from viral antigens,
- ✓ confirmed that HCV positive lymphoma cells use a restricted repertoire of Ig variable genes;
- ✓ failed in attributing to their BCR a specificity against viral antigens.



HCV and BCR

OPEN

Oncogene

Oncogene (2016) 35, 2979–2990

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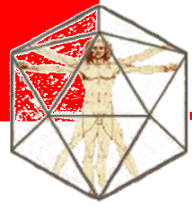
www.nature.com/onc

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

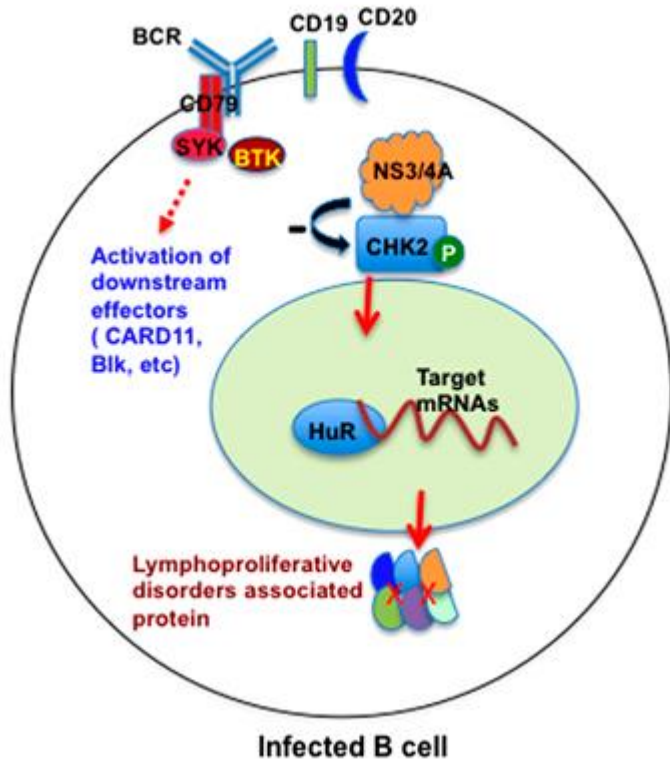
Hepatitis C virus upregulates B-cell receptor signaling: a novel mechanism for HCV-associated B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders

B Dai¹, AY Chen², CP Corkum², RJ Peroutka¹, A Landon¹, S Houg¹, PA Muniandy¹, Y Zhang³, E Lehrmann³, K Mazan-Mamczarz¹, J Steinhardt¹, M Shlyak⁴, QC Chen⁵, KG Becker³, F Livak¹, TI Michalak², R Talwani⁴ and RB Gartenhaus^{1,6}

- ✓ Confirmed the expression of HCV viral proteins in B cells of HCV-infected patients;
- ✓ Show that HCV upregulates BCR signaling in human primary B cells.



Proposed mechanism for HCV B-cell LPDs



- ✓ HCV NS3 interacts with **CHK2** and downregulates CHK2 activity;
- ✓ This repressed CHK2 activity modulates HuR posttranscriptional regulation of target mRNAs associated with B-cell LPDs, preferentially those involved in the BCR signaling pathway.



Chronic antigenic stimulation

OPEN

Oncogene

Oncogene (2016) 35, 2979–2990

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www.nature.com/onc

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Hepatitis C virus upregulates B-cell receptor signaling: a novel mechanism for HCV-associated B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders

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- ✓ It is plausible that HCV potentially transforms cells by a ‘hit and run’ mechanism;
- ✓ HCV may initially stimulate B-cell proliferation;
- ✓ The transformed B cells no longer require continuous HCV stimulation and their BCRs may have undetectable reactivity with HCV.

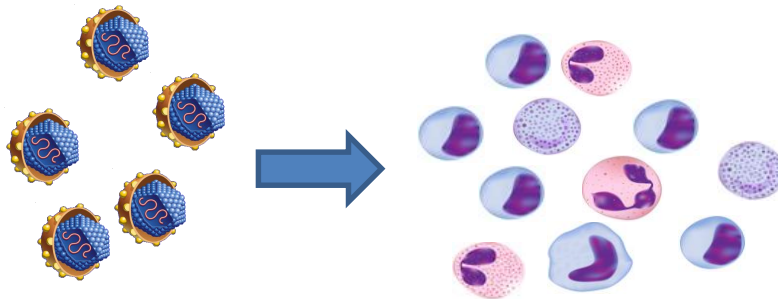


A direct oncogenic potential: an old *in vitro* study

Hepatitis C virus induces a mutator phenotype: Enhanced mutations of immunoglobulin and protooncogenes

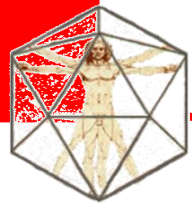
PNAS, 2004

Keigo Machida*, Kevin T.-N. Cheng*, Vicky M.-H. Sung*, Shigetaka Shimodaira*, Karen L. Lindsay†, Alexandra M. Levine†, Ming-Yang Lai‡, and Michael M. C. Lai*⁵



in vitro infection of
different B-cell lines and
PBMCs from donors

**HCV INFECTION INDUCES A MUTATOR PHENOTYPE
WHICH INVOLVES ENHANCED SOMATIC MUTATIONS OF MANY
GENES.**



How can HCV induce a mutator phenotype?

HCV INDUCES:

Mutation frequencies of cellular genes in HCV-infected cells

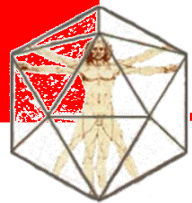
Locus	HCV(-)*		HCV(+)	
	Clones mutated [†]	Mutation frequency × 10 ⁻⁴	Clones mutated [†]	Mutation frequency × 10 ⁻⁴
<i>V_H</i>				
Raji	2/20	2.5	11/20	17.3
JT	1/20	1.2	6/20	9.9
<i>BCL-6</i> (area B)				
Raji	0/20	0	8/20	8.3
JT	1/20	0.7	7/19	7.3
PBMC	2/54	0.8	27/80	6.4
PBMC (area A)	—	—	9/72	3.7
<i>P53</i>				
Raji	0/30	0 [§]	4/30	6.7
JT	0/33	0	6/26	11.5
PBMC	1/172	0.3	36/400	4.6
<i>β-catenin</i>				
Raji	0/20	0	5/20	5.6
JT	0/19	0	6/18	7.4
PBMC	2/60	0.7	20/64	7.8
<i>β-globin</i>				
Raji	0/21	0	4/21	3.6
JT	0/24	0	6/24	4.7
PBMC	1/56	0.6	8/58	4.2

- **AN ERROR-PRONE DNA POLYMERASE**

- **ACTIVATION-INDUCED CYTIDINE DEAMINASE (AID)**

which together, contributed to the enhancement of mutation frequency

HCV MAY CAUSE TUMOR FORMATION BY A HIT-AND-RUN MECHANISM.



HCV direct oncogenic potential - *in vivo* studies

Persistent expression of the full genome of hepatitis C virus in B cells induces spontaneous development of B-cell lymphomas *in vivo*

*Yuri Kasama,¹ *Satoshi Sekiguchi,² Makoto Saito,¹ Kousuke Tanaka,¹ Masaaki Satoh,¹ Kazuhiko Kuwahara,³ Nobuo Sakaguchi,³ Motohiro Takeya,⁴ Yoichi Hiasa,⁵ Michinori Kohara,² and Kyoko Tsukiyama-Kohara¹



blood[®]

2010



TRANSGENIC MICE EXPRESSING:

- ✓ **full length of viral genome (all the HCV proteins)**
- ✓ **expressed only in B-lymphocytes (cre-lox mice)**
- ✓ **under control of CD19 promoter**

SHOWED A 25% INCIDENCE OF DLBCL



Summarizing the *in vivo*-studies...



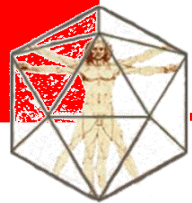
Review Article

Hepatitis C Virus-Related Lymphomagenesis in a Mouse Model

**Kyoko Tsukiyama-Kohara,¹ Satoshi Sekiguchi,² Yuri Kasama,¹
Nagla Elwy Salem,^{1,3,4} Keigo Machida,⁵ and Michinori Kohara²**

ISRN Haematology, 2011

- **extremely high incidences of lymphomas and lymphoproliferative disorders;**
- **expression of HCV genes in all the lymphoma cells;**
- **increased levels of BCL-2 expression, which promoted oncogenic transformation of lymphocytes;**
- **increased levels of interleukin 10 and 2 (IL-10 & IL-2).**



A direct role of NS3 protein in human NHL

NEGATIVE STAINING: MZL

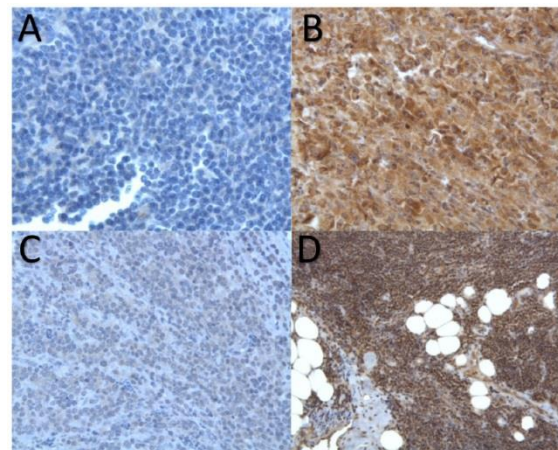
STRONG STAINING: DLBCL

PLOS | ONE

2016

In Situ Hepatitis C NS3 Protein Detection Is Associated with High Grade Features in Hepatitis C-Associated B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas

Danielle Canoni^{1,6*}, Jean-Marie Michot^{2,c}, Pascaline Rabiega³, Thierry J. Molina¹, Frédéric Charlotte⁴, Thierry Lazure⁵, Frédéric Davi⁶, Catherine Settegrana⁶, Françoise Berger⁷, Laurent Alric⁸, Patrice Cacoub⁹, Benjamin Terrier⁹, Felipe Suarez^{10,11}, David Sibon^{10,11}, Jehan Dupuis¹², Cyrille Feray¹³, Hervé Tilly¹⁴, Stanislas Pol¹⁵, Bénédicte Deau Fischer¹⁶, Sandrine Roulland¹⁷, Catherine Thieblemont¹⁸, Véronique Leblond¹⁹, Fabrice Carrat³, Olivier Hermine^{10,11,6*}, Caroline Besson^{20†}, national ANRS HC13 LymphoC study¹

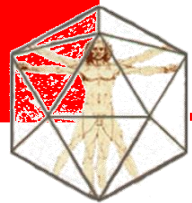


WEAK STAINING: MZL

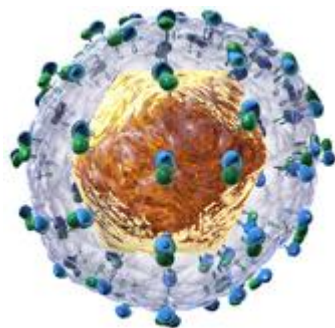
**STRONG STAINING: MZL
ENRICHED IN LARGE CELLS**

- ✓ In situ expression of the oncogenic HCV NS3 protein on HCV patients with B-NHL (DLBCL and MZL)
- ✓ NS3 immunostaining positive in 12/14 DLBCL vs only 4/14 MZL ($p = 0.006$); moreover, 2/4 NS3+ MZL were enriched in large cells

This study supports a new mechanism of transformation with a direct oncogenic role of HCV proteins in the occurrence of high-grade B lymphomas



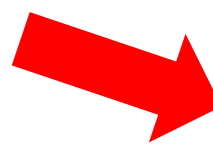
Three different pictures:



MZL (low grade)



**USUALLY
EFFECTIVE**



**De novo DLBCL
(high grade)**



PLUS R-CHOP



**DLBCL (high grade)
transformed from
MZL (low grade)**



PLUS R-CHOP

Thank you for your attention!
