Leishmania major: Immune response in BALB/c mice immunized with stress-inducible protein \(\) encapsulated in liposomes

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Abstract: Protection against leishmaniasis is depending upon generation of a Th¹ type of immune response. Field trials of first generation Leishmania vaccine showed a limited efficacy even with multiple doses mainly due to lack of an appropriate adjuvant. In this study, susceptible BALB/c mice were immunized with rLmST¹¹ encapsulated in liposomes to explore the extent of protection induced by Leishmania antigen encapsulated in the liposomes against challenge with Leishmania major. The results showed that s.c. immunization of BALB/c mice with liposomal rLmST¹¹ induced a significant protection against challenge and a significant lower parasite burden in spleen up to ¹٤ weeks after challenge. The protected animals showed a significantly smaller footpad thickness after challenge, and a higher level of anti-SLA lgG antibodies before and after challenge with a predominant lgG¹a titer. The data supports the possibility of using liposomal Leishmania antigens as a vaccine. (c) ¹ · · ¹ Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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