ABSTRACT

Zika virus (ZIKV) is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that has infected hundreds of thousands of people

worldwide and caused devastating healthcare and socioeconomic outcomes. Zika has gained the

attention of healthcare community, given its emergence in a dengue virus (DENV) endemic region and

the high antigenic homology between both flaviviruses, which has been linked to cross-reactive

immune responses observed in vitro and in vivo. This study aimed to measure the cross-reactive

antibody response of IgG against the whole virus in sera obtained from nonpregnant and pregnant

cynomolgus macaques that received sequential challenges with DENV2 and ZIKV. Kinetics of IgG

antibody responses and cross-reactivity were determined against whole virus antigens using indirect

enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Different IgG antibody responses and cross-reactivity

were observed in all DENV-immune (n=3) and naïve cohorts (n=1). Pre-existing anti-DENV IgG was

observed to cross-react to ZIKV and vice versa. Also, pre-existing immunity to DENV influenced the

production of ZIKV-antibody upon secondary challenge. Although antibody cross-reactivity has been

associated with antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) in mouse models, the contribution of

antibody cross-reactivity to disease enhancement or cross-protection in primates remains to be

elucidated in the future study.

Keyword: Antibody, Cross-reactivity, DENV, Flavivirus, ZIKV

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