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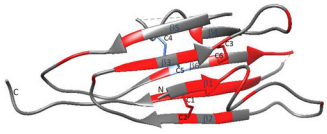
SPOTLIGHT

Articles of Significant Interest Selected from This Issue by the Editors

Transmission-Blocking Vaccine Candidate Successfully Expressed in Baculovirus

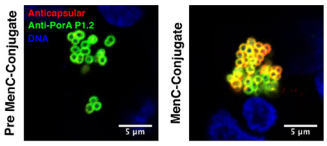
The expression and purification of transmission-blocking vaccine candidates for malaria have been challenging due to the size and complexity of these antigens. Given the large size of Pfs230, a *Plasmodium falciparum* gametocyte surface protein, an N-terminal fragment was successfully produced in the baculovirus expression system using Super Sf9 cells. Lee et al. (e00140-17) found the recombinant protein to be pure and monomeric and the two disulfide bonds properly paired. Further, antibodies raised in mice to the recombinant protein elicited functional activities, including transmission-reducing activity. This work builds toward the goal of developing transmission-blocking vaccines while continuing to demonstrate the utility of the baculovirus expression system.



Ribbon diagram model of conserved residues among Pfs230 sequences of different strains and Pf12.

Effect of High-Avidity Anticapsular IgG on Meningococcal Colonization and Invasion

Capsular polysaccharide-protein conjugate vaccines provide protection to both the immunized and the unimmunized against disease caused by encapsulated bacterial pathogens by reducing colonization in large populations. Vianzon et al. (e00188-17) investigated the mechanistic details of how IgG antibodies elicited in humans by polysaccharide-protein conjugate, plain polysaccharide, and protein-based meningococcal vaccines affect colonization of *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B (MenB) and C (MenC) strains in a human bronchial epithelial cell coculture model. The results provide new insights into capsular polysaccharide shedding during meningococcal colonization and invasion and the variable effects of vaccine-elicited IgG antibodies on the process.



High-avidity anticapsular IgG inhibits capsular polysaccharide from being shed by colonizing bacteria.

https://doi.org/10.1128/CVI.00257-17