

Identification of antigenic epitopes of *Salmonella typhi* using phage display epitope library

VMB-4

wai Lin Thong, G Subramaniam¹, S. Devi², S. Puthuchery², M. Yu³, L.F. Wang³, T. Pang¹

Abstract

Kami telah menyusun suatu pustaka gen target dan pustaka epitop/peptida acak yang terdapat di permukaan filamen partikel faga. Pustaka target gen dibuat dengan teknik kloning dan ekspresi fragmen-fragmen DNA *S. typhi* yang relatif pendek (100-300 pb) dengan menggabungkan dengan gen permukaan faga pIII. Dengan menggunakan biopanning assay di mana serum dari penderita demam tifoid telah diencerkan diimmobilisasi pada suatu fase padat (misalnya pada pelat ELISA atau butir magnetik), epitop antigenik dari pustaka ini dapat diidentifikasi melalui pengikatan dan selanjutnya elusi dari faga rekombinan tersebut, serta pembacaan sekuens DNA yang relevan. Sekuens DNA yang berhasil diidentifikasi telah dihimpun dalam suatu data dasar dan beberapa epitop antigenik telah diidentifikasi. Kelebihan pendekatan ini adalah pada kemampuannya untuk menemukan seluruh spektrum epitop yang antigenik dan mampu pula menilai reaksi tanggap kebal dari penderita terhadap galur *S. typhi* yang spesifik. Penemuan tersebut di atas dapat memberikan implikasi sangat penting dalam meningkatkan pemahaman akan patogenesis penyakit, diagnosis yang lebih baik dan pengembangan vaksin di masa depan.

Summary

We have constructed a genome-targeted library of *Salmonella typhi* displayed on the surface of filamentous phage particles. The genome-targeted library was made by cloning and expressing relatively short DNA fragments (100-300bp) from *S. typhi* genomic DNA into the pIII phage coat protein genes of a phagemid. Utilizing a biopanning assay, where diluted sera from patients with typhoid fever were immobilised on a solid support (paramagnetic beads), antigenic epitopes from the genome-targeted phage library were identified by phage binding and subsequent elution of recombinant phages and DNA sequencing of relevant inserts. Database searching of the identified sequence was carried out and putative antigenic epitopes identified. The power of this approach lies in its ability to search for the entire spectrum of antigenic epitopes and in assessing individual patient's immune responses to particular strains of *S. typhi*. The findings may have important implications for improved understanding of disease pathogenesis, better diagnostics and future development of vaccines.

INTRODUCTION

In the past few years, there has been a surge of interest in a new technology for displaying foreign peptides on the surface of filamentous bacteriophages. This phage display technology, which was first developed by George Smith and his colleagues^{1,2}, has a wide range of applications in many disciplines of biological sciences³. One such application is the identification of antigenic epitopes from random peptide libraries displayed on the phage surface by affinity selection or biopanning using immobilised antibodies³. This procedure involves repetitive cycles of binding the phage particles to an immobilised antibody target, removal of non-binding and non-specifically bound phages by several washes and

recovery of bound phages by acid elution. The displayed peptide(s) responsible for binding to the antibody can be identified by directly sequencing the encoding insert in the genome of the recombinant phage.

Despite the importance of typhoid fever in the tropical developing countries, the pathogenesis of the disease and host immune response to typhoid fever remains poorly understood. Our previous studies showed that significant genetic diversity exists among recent *S. typhi* isolates from different parts of the world^{4,5} and that this diversity can be correlated with disease phenotypes⁶. Thus we would like to apply the phage display technology to ascertain whether this genetic diversity is reflected phenotypically at the level of antigenic peptides expression recognised by the host immune response during typhoid fever.

In this paper, we describe a slightly different random expression strategy for epitope mapping using phage display technology. Rather than expressing totally

¹Institute of Biological Sciences,
²Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research,
³Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Malaya,
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
⁴ARC, Animal Health Lab., Geelong, Australia.