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Patterns of Gene Transcript Abundance in the Blood of Children with Severe or Uncomplicated Dengue Highlight Differences in Disease Evolution and Host Response to Dengue Virus Infection

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Abstract

DNA microarrays and specific reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction assays were used to reveal transcriptional patterns in the blood of children presenting with dengue shock syndrome (DSS) and well-matched patients with uncomplicated dengue. The transcriptome of patients with acute uncomplicated dengue was characterized by a metabolically demanding "host-defense" profile; transcripts related to oxidative metabolism, interferon signaling, protein ubiquination, apoptosis, and cytokines were prominent. In contrast, the transcriptome of patients with DSS was surprisingly benign, particularly with regard to transcripts derived from apoptotic and type I interferon pathways. These data highlight significant heterogeneity in the type or timing of host transcriptional immune responses precipitated by dengue virus infection independent of the duration of illness. In particular, they suggest that, if transcriptional events in the blood compartment contribute to capillary leakage leading to hypovolemic shock, they occur before cardiovascular decompensation, a finding that has implications for rational adjuvant therapy in this syndrome.

> Dengue viruses (DENVs) are arboviruses that can cause an acute, systemic febrile illness that varies in its severity. Dengue is endemic in many countries in tropical regions and is a major public health problem. As yet, no vaccine or specific antiviral therapy is available for the prevention or management of dengue.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) is a severe presentation of DENV infection. The important clinical events in DHF are hemorrhagic manifestations and capillary leakage

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syndrome. At its most severe, capillary leak results in hypovolemic shock, or dengue shock syndrome (DSS); this requires urgent intravenous fluid resuscitation to restore intravascular volume. A risk factor for DHF/DSS is secondary infection with a DENV serotype distinct from the individual's DENV infection history [1-3]. The basis for secondary infection as a risk factor for severe disease has been ascribed to the infection-enhancing potential of subor nonneutralizing antibodies from a previous infection [4], cross-reactive memory T cells that secrete vasodilatory cytokines [5-7], and host genetic predisposition [8, 9]. Studies to investigate the pathogenesis of dengue are made more challenging by the absence of a robust animal model of disease.

There remains considerable uncertainty as to how the DENV-host interaction results in vascular leak, the most important clinical characteristic of DHF. Early viral load in vivo appears to be important, given that patients with DHF have significantly higher serum viral loads and NS1 concentrations (possibly driven by antibody-dependent enhancement) than do patients with dengue fever (DF) [10, 11]. DHF has also been associated with a robust host inflammatory immune response—significantly greater plasma concentrations of inflammatory cytokines [12-14] and activated lymphocytes are found in patients with DHF than in those with DF [7, 15].

Type I interferons (IFN- α/β) are likely important in the host defense against DENV infection. Mice deficient in IFN- α/β receptors are more susceptible to DENV infection [16], and IFN- α/β can protect cells against DENV infection in vitro [17]. Once infected, however, DENV nonstructural proteins can functionally attenuate the activity of IFN- α/β -mediated antiviral mechanisms, suggesting an evolved viral strategy for escaping early innate immune defenses [18, 19]. Finally, the process of antibody-dependent enhancement of infection may result in attenuation of IFN- α/β -mediated up-regulation of transcription factors important to innate antiviral effector mechanisms [20].

Genomewide gene expression studies of dengue represent an opportunity to identify novel markers associated with immunity and disease pathogenesis. Ubol et al. [21] demonstrated an early difference in the transcriptome between children with DF and those with DHF, and we previously found that transcripts from type I IFN–stimulated genes (ISGs) were less abundant in adult patients with DSS than in those with less-severe dengue [22]. The present study describes global patterns of gene transcript abundance in whole blood from 2 groups of pediatric patients with dengue who exhibited different clinical phenotypes after identical illness durations. A key finding was the relatively low abundance of transcripts from ISGs among patients with DSS at the time of cardiovascular decompensation.

METHODS

Patients and clinical investigations

From July to November 2005, we prospectively enrolled 111 children with acute dengue into a study of transcriptional responses in whole blood at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases (HTD), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Written informed consent was obtained from the parents of each patient. The study protocol was approved by the Scientific and Ethical Committee of HTD and the Oxfordshire Tropical Research Ethical Committee. Clinical and

hematological assessments were performed daily. Samples for RNA analysis were collected at the time of hospital admission and at a 1-month follow-up visit. Hemoconcentration was determined by comparing the maximum hematocrit recorded during hospitalization with the value recorded at convalescence. On the basis of World Health Organization classification criteria, 27 patients had DSS (pulse pressure of 20 mm Hg with poor peripheral perfusion and rapid, weak pulse) and were admitted to the intensive care unit and received appropriate resuscitation. The remaining 84 patients had dengue without evidence of cardiovascular compromise. We have used the term "uncomplicated dengue" to refer to these hospitalized patients because they did not require any significant clinical interventions and were managed throughout in the general dengue ward.

For the 27 patients with DSS, we selected RNA samples from 9 patients who presented to the hospital with DSS on the fourth day of illness (with the day of onset of symptoms taken as day 1) for microarray analysis. For each patient with DSS, an age- and (where possible) sex-matched control patient with uncomplicated dengue and an identical duration of illness was selected.

Dengue serology and polymerase chain reaction (PCR)

Serological testing of paired plasma samples was performed using a dengue IgM and IgG capture ELISA (Panbio). The interpretation of primary versus secondary acute serological profiles was performed as suggested by the manufacturer. An internally controlled and serotype-specific real-time reverse-transcription PCR (RT-PCR) assay was used to measure DENV loads in plasma, as described elsewhere [22].

RNA extraction

Whole blood (2.5 mL) was collected directly into PAXgene RNA tubes (Qiagen) at the bedside. RNA extraction was performed using PAXgene RNA kits (Qiagen).

Gene expression microarray

Biotinylated amplified cRNA was generated by in vitro transcription technology using the Illumina TotalPrep RNA Amplification Kit (Ambion), in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. After purification, 850 ng of cRNA was hybridized to an Illumina HumanRef-8 V1BeadChip (containing probes to 23,961 RefSeq gene sequences) at 55°C for 18 h, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This was followed by washing, blocking, and streptavidin-Cy3–staining steps. Finally, the chip was scanned with an Illumina Bead Array Reader confocal scanner.

Array normalization

Standard normalization procedures (GeneSpring GX software; version 7.3; Silicon Genetics) for 1-color array data were used. In brief, data transformation was corrected for low signal, with values recorded at < 0.01 increased to the minimum (0.01). Per-chip (mean) normalization accounted for chip variability by dividing all of the measurements on each chip by a 50th percentile value. Per-gene normalization accounted for variability between probe sets for different genes. Only genes that were detected in at least 1 sample were included in further analysis (13,535 genes). Analysis of variance (ANOVA) *t* test (unequal

variances, nonmultiple corrections, and false discovery rate <5%) was used for all comparisons.

TaqMan low-density array

Whole-blood total RNA (300 ng) was reversed transcribed using the High-Capacity cDNA Archive Kit (Applied Biosystems). PCR was performed using Microfluidic cards (Applied Biosystems), in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Transcript abundance data (cycle threshold $[C_T]$ value) for each gene was manually checked to remove the falsepositive values, using SDS software (version 2.2) and RQ Manager (version 2.2.2; Applied Biosystems). Relative transcript abundance was determined using the 2[−] ^CT method [23]. In brief, this method uses a single sample, termed the "calibrator sample," as a comparator for every unknown sample's gene expression level. The calibrator can be any sample chosen to have all of the genes expressed $(C_T$ value of <36 cycles). The calibrator is analyzed on every assay plate with the unknown samples of interest. The relative fold difference is calculated using the following formula: fold induction = $2⁻$ CT , where $C_T = (C_T$ of gene</sup> of interest in unknown sample – C_T of 18S gene in unknown sample) – $(C_T$ of gene of interest in calibrator – C_T of 18S gene in calibrator). The fold differences in transcript abundance in samples from patients with different clinical phenotypes were compared by the Mann-Whitney *U* test, using MultiExperiment Viewer software (version 4.1.01; available at: <http://www.tm4.org>) [24].

Pathway analysis

Ingenuity Pathway Analysis software (version 7; Ingenuity Systems) was used to analyze enriched or less-abundant gene lists. For canonical pathways, the significance of the association was measured using Fisher's exact test to calculate a *P* value determining the probability that the association between the genes in the data set and those in the canonical pathway is explained by chance alone.

Statistical analysis

ANOVA was used to analyze microarray data, using GeneSpring GX software. The Mann-Whitney *U* test was used to analyze quantitative RT-PCR data, using MultiExperiment Viewer. Differences for which $P < .05$ were regarded as significant.

RESULTS

Patient population

The aim of the present study was to describe early whole-blood transcriptional responses in 2 groups of pediatric patients (*n* = 9 per group), comparing children presenting with uncomplicated dengue and children presenting with DSS. The clinical and hematological characteristics, including absolute counts of the major lymphocyte subsets, for the 18 patients with dengue are described in table 1. Patients with DSS had lower platelet nadirs and, on the basis of changes in hemoconcentration, significantly greater vascular leak than did patients with uncomplicated dengue (table 1). On the fourth day of illness, when blood samples for microarray analysis were collected, patients with DSS had significantly higher

absolute counts of $CD3^+CD8^+T$ cells (table 1) but significantly lower plasma viremia levels than did patients with uncomplicated dengue (table 1).

Microarray data analysis

Analysis was focused on identifying transcripts that were differentially abundant between acute (day 4) and convalescent (day 30) samples. For the resulting 13,535 gene transcripts, we applied the following criteria in all comparisons: (1) gene transcripts were detected in at least 50% of samples, (2) the mean fold change between 2 conditions was >1.5-fold, and (3) the false-discovery rate was <5%. By these criteria, microarray data analysis revealed 3092 gene transcripts that were differentially abundant (523 less abundant and 2569 enriched) in acute samples from patients with DSS compared with that in autologous convalescent samples and 2471 gene transcripts that were differentially abundant (267 less abundant and 2204 enriched) in acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue compared with that in autologous convalescent samples. There were 1197 genes common to the 2 gene lists. The 100 most differentially abundant transcripts in acute and convalescent samples from each patient group are listed in tables 2 and 3.

Uncomplicated dengue: acute versus convalescent samples

Unsupervised pathway analysis of transcripts either significantly enriched (*n* = 2204) or underrepresented $(n = 267)$ in acute samples (relative to that in autologous convalescent samples) was used to identify biological themes in the transcriptome of patients with uncomplicated dengue. Transcripts significantly enriched in acute samples were derived from genes in pathways associated with oxidative metabolism, mitochondrial dysfunction, protein ubiquitination, and nucleotide metabolism, suggesting a highly active metabolic state consistent with a host response to infection (figure 1). Of immune-response pathways, the IFN pathway was most prominent, followed by interleukin (IL)–10, antigen presentation, and IL-6 signaling pathways. In contrast, among transcripts that were significantly less abundant in acute samples, there were no significant molecular themes arising from pathway analysis, most likely because of the small number $(n = 267)$ of elements for analysis. Thus, the biological processes highlighted in the enriched population of transcripts are consistent with a metabolically demanding host response in which IFN-driven immune processes and cytokine networks are prominent.

DSS: acute versus convalescent samples

Surprisingly, unsupervised pathway analysis of transcripts significantly enriched ($n = 2569$) in acute samples from children with DSS did not identify any significant pathway or biological process (figure 2). Unsupervised analysis of underrepresented transcripts in acute samples ($n = 523$) implicated the death receptor, apoptotic, and IL-10 signaling pathways as being features of this "downregulated" transcriptome (figure 3). However, the strength of the association between these pathways and samples was not as robust as that observed between acute and convalescent samples in children with uncomplicated dengue (figure 1). Remarkably then, at a time when capillary leakage had precipitated hypovolemic shock in these afebrile patients with DSS, the whole-blood transcriptome appeared relatively muted from an immune-defense perspective.

The absence of a strong transcriptional signature in the blood of children with DSS is in stark contrast with the prominent molecular themes identified in acute samples in febrile children with uncomplicated dengue (figure 1). These differences between acute and convalescent samples did not result from intrinsic differences between convalescent samples in the 2 patient groups; unsupervised comparison of these convalescent samples identified just 138 differentially abundant transcripts among 13,535 transcripts analyzed. Collectively, these data suggest fundamental differences in the evolution of the transcriptional response between these 2 groups of children with identical durations of illness but different clinical phenotypes.

Uncomplicated dengue versus DSS

The transcriptional profiles of acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue and those with DSS were compared directly to identify differentially abundant gene transcripts. The rationale for this comparison was to compare the host response in these 2 groups of patients with identical durations of illness but distinct clinical phenotypes and disease evolution. In unsupervised analysis, 1749 transcripts were differentially abundant between patients with acute uncomplicated dengue and those with DSS; transcripts from 1030 genes were enriched and 719 were less abundant in patients with uncomplicated dengue (table 4).

Unsupervised pathway analysis of transcripts significantly enriched in patients with uncomplicated dengue implicated the death receptor, IFN, apoptosis, IL-6, NF-κB, and IL-10 signaling pathways as being immune function–related processes distinguishing uncomplicated dengue from DSS (figure 4*A*). Unsupervised pathway analysis of transcripts less abundant in patients with uncomplicated dengue identified a diverse set of pathways (figure 4*B*), with the majority associated with cellular metabolic activities and not immune function. Collectively and in the context of the samples available, these data identify apoptotic and immune function–related molecular pathways as defining the transcriptional difference between these 2 groups of children with identical durations of illness but different clinical outcomes.

RT-PCR validation of gene transcript abundance

TaqMan RT-PCR assays were used to validate the relative abundance of transcripts identified as being differentially expressed between (1) acute versus convalescent samples from children with uncomplicated dengue and (2) acute samples from children with DSS versus those from children with uncomplicated dengue. The selection of gene transcripts to validate was influenced by 2 guiding themes: (1) they were biologically replicated in the array (i.e., they were relatively consistent between patient samples) and (2) genes related to immune function should be prominent, because these pathways distinguished uncomplicated dengue from DSS and, in general, a focus on the immune transcriptome would serve the wider purpose of informing models of immunopathogenesis. Validation of gene transcript abundance was performed with acute RNA samples from 8 patients with DSS (6 of whom were included in the microarray analysis) and 8 matched patients with uncomplicated dengue (6 of whom were included in the microarray analysis).

RT-PCR: acute versus convalescent samples among patients with uncomplicated dengue

Sixty-nine transcripts related to immune response were selected for validation by RT-PCR assays from among all transcripts significantly enriched in acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue relative to convalescent samples. Emphasis was placed on validating canonical ISGs, because these were highly enriched in the microarray (figure 1). Of the 69 transcripts selected, 64 (93%) were also differentially abundant when measured by RT-PCR, including those from 34 ISGs (figure 5*A*-5*C*). In addition to ISGs, transcripts more abundant in acute samples and relevant to pathogenesis included those from genes for complement factors (C2, C1qA, C1qB, C1qG, and C3aR), chemokines (CCL2, CCL8, and CXCL10), Toll-like receptor (TLR) 2 and 7, and cig5/viperin.

RT-PCR: acute versus convalescent samples among patients with DSS

Nineteen transcripts related to immune response were selected for validation by RT-PCR assays from among transcripts differentially abundant in acute samples from patients with DSS relative to convalescent samples; of these, 11 transcripts were validated by RT-PCR (figure 6), with transcripts from the complement pathway being most prominent.

RT-PCR: acute uncomplicated dengue versus acute DSS

Fifty-nine transcripts related to immune response were selected for validation by RT-PCR assays from among transcripts significantly enriched in acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue relative to those from patients with DSS; this included 47 transcripts also investigated in the comparison of acute versus convalescent samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue (figure 5*A*-5*C*). Of these 59 transcripts, 30 (51%) were also differentially abundant when measured by RT-PCR (figure 7*A* and 7*B*), including those from 17 ISGs. In addition to ISGs, transcripts from genes for chemokines (CCL2, CCL8, and CXCL10) were prominently more abundant in acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue.

Collectively, these RT-PCR data serve to validate one of the central findings of the microarray analysis: the prominence of IFN-related transcripts in the host-defense profile of the transcriptome of acute uncomplicated dengue versus convalescent samples and, conversely, their relative underabundance in children at the time of hypovolemic shock.

DISCUSSION

The present study attempted to better understand DSS by defining the whole-blood transcriptome at the time of hypovolemic shock and comparing it with that in autologous convalescence samples and to that in samples from well-matched children with acute uncomplicated dengue. A key and unexpected finding was the immunologically muted transcriptional profile in children with DSS relative to that in their own convalescent samples and to that in children with acute uncomplicated dengue but an identical duration of illness. In particular, transcripts belonging to pathways associated with apoptosis, cytokine signaling (IL-6 and IL-10), NF- κ B, and IFN were less abundant in patients with DSS at the time of cardiovascular compromise, despite the presence of a measurable viremia. These data suggest that significant heterogeneity exists in the type or timing of host immune

responses precipitated by DENV infection. Indeed, the present study suggests that, if wholeblood transcriptional events contribute to capillary leakage and DSS, then it occurs well before hypovolemic shock manifests.

Capillary leakage leading to DSS is the most common life-threatening complication of dengue in children living in settings of endemicity. DSS typically occurs around the time of defervescence and at a time when the DENV burden is in steep decline. Host immune responses, driven at least in part by overall viral antigenic mass, have been repeatedly nominated as being important in promoting clinically significant capillary leakage (reviewed in [25]). The rationale for the present study was to better understand the host response at the time of vascular decompensation in pediatric patients with dengue. The patients with DSS in this study were afebrile at the time of hypovolemic shock (day 4) and on average had significantly lower viremias than did the comparison group of children with uncomplicated dengue, who, in contrast, were all still febrile. In essence then, although matched by duration of illness, overall serological response, age, and sex, these 2 groups of children had contrasting disease evolution profiles when samples for microarray analysis were collected.

Consistent with the concept that the patients in this study had different disease evolution profiles, we observed starkly different whole-blood transcriptional profiles between afebrile children with DSS and febrile children with uncomplicated dengue. Transcripts associated with type I IFN—beginning with the dsRNA-sensing molecule melanoma differentiation– associated protein 5 and extending to canonical ISGs plus chemokines (CCL2, CCL8, and CXCL10), complement subunits/receptors, and transcription factors and TLRs—were significantly more abundant in samples from febrile children with uncomplicated dengue than in autologous convalescent samples. Several of the ISGs (*OAS1, OAS2, OAS3, IRF7, SOCS1, STAT1,* and viperin) identified in this study were also abundant in the transcriptome of febrile Singaporean adults with uncomplicated dengue [26] and in experimentally DENVinfected macaque monkeys [27]. These prominent genes and pathways may serve as candidate genes in future host genetic studies of dengue susceptibility. In contrast, the transcriptome of patients with DSS at the time of decompensation was, from an immunedefense perspective, highly muted and instead contained a greater abundance of transcripts from metabolic pathways than that in patients with uncomplicated dengue and the same duration of illness. A possible explanation for this muted, or even repressed, immuneresponse signature is that the host-defense transcriptional profile is observed well before the point of defervescence and cardiovascular decompensation in patients with DSS. In this scenario, a very high initial viral antigen burden drives a rapid and robust host-defense transcriptional response that wanes by the time of defervescence and cardiovascular decompensation as viral antigen is cleared by secondary humoral and cellular immune responses. Paradoxically, the rapidity and strength of this antigen-driven secondary response, along with other risk factors, may largely account for the extent of capillary leakage in children with secondary dengue [12].

A conceivable but perhaps less likely explanation for the missing host-defense profile at the time of decompensation in patients with DSS is that it is attenuated throughout the course of disease. This attenuated response might be related to intrinsic host-genetic influences on gene expression, or it might be a virus-mediated phenomenon—either could result in higher

initial viral burdens in vivo. Relatedly, the capacity of DENV non-structural proteins to inhibit the activation of ISGs in vitro has been well documented [18, 19]. Finally, the absence of an inflammatory transcriptome at the time of cardiovascular decompensation may explain why adjuvant corticosteroid use in patients with established DSS has little efficacy [28]—there is essentially little in the way of an inflammatory transcriptional response to modulate.

This present study extends our previous observations in adults with DSS, albeit using a different chip technology [22]. In contrast to our previous study, the present study was more comprehensive in that it sampled RNA from pediatric patients matched by age, sex, and duration of illness and validated a wider panel of transcripts by RT-PCR. A limitation of our present study is the relatively small sample size and lack of samples collected very early during the evolution of disease. In addition, the relative lack of known pathways associated with the many transcripts more abundant in patients with DSS may also reflect our incomplete understanding of transcriptional networks. Future studies will focus on the very early host viral events in febrile children who subsequently progress to DSS. Ultimately, a better understanding of the molecular evolution of DSS could help identify novel biomarkers that have prognostic utility and form the rationale for new clinical interventions for this important disease.

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Figure 1. Pathway analysis of transcripts enriched in acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue.

Shown are the top 20 canonical pathways identified by unsupervised pathway analysis of filtered microarray data representing transcripts enriched $(n = 2204)$ in acute samples (day 4) of illness) from patients with uncomplicated dengue relative to autologous convalescent samples (day 30). The strength of the statistical association is indicated by the length of the bars. The ratio value reflects the proportion of gene elements on the enriched gene list that belong to one of these canonical pathways.

Figure 2. Pathway analysis of transcripts enriched in acute samples from patients with dengue shock syndrome (DSS).

Figure 3. Pathway analysis of transcripts less abundant in acute samples from patients with dengue shock syndrome (DSS).

Shown are the top 20 canonical pathways identified by unsupervised pathway analysis of filtered microarray data representing transcripts less abundant $(n = 523)$ in acute samples (day 4 of illness) from patients with DSS relative to autologous convalescent samples (day 30). The strength of the statistical association is indicated by the length of the bars. The ratio value reflects the proportion of gene elements on the enriched gene list that belong to one of these canonical pathways.

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Figure 4. Pathway analysis of transcripts enriched or less abundant in acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue relative to that in acute samples from patients with dengue shock syndrome (DSS).

Shown are the top 20 canonical pathways identified by unsupervised pathway analysis of filtered microarray data representing transcripts significantly enriched $(n = 1030)$ *(A)* or less abundant (*n* = 719) *(B)* in acute samples (day 4 of illness) from patients with uncomplicated dengue relative to that in acute samples from patients with DSS. The strength of the statistical association is indicated by the length of the bars. The ratio value reflects the proportion of gene elements on the enriched gene list that belong to one of these canonical pathways.

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Figure 5. Reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) validation of transcripts enriched in acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue relative to autologous convalescent samples.

Shown in panel A is a heat map of individual patient samples filtered on those transcripts enriched in acute samples (day 4 of illness) from patients with uncomplicated dengue relative to autologous convalescent samples (day 30) $(n = 69)$ that were selected for RT-PCR validation. The gene symbols of canonical type I interferon–stimulated genes are underlined next to the heat map. Shown in panels B and C are graphs representing the mean fold difference in abundance for 64 (93%) of the 69 transcripts that were validated by RT-PCR. The fold difference is shown for both microarray analysis (*black bars*) and RT-PCR analysis (*white bars*), with values >1 indicating greater abundance in acute samples. Five of the 69 transcripts were not validated by RT-PCR (shown by the black vertical line next to the heat map).

Figure 6. Reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) validation of transcripts enriched or less abundant in acute samples from patients with dengue shock syndrome (DSS) relative to that in convalescent samples.

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Figure 7. Reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) validation of transcripts enriched in acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue relative to that in acute samples from patients with dengue shock syndrome (DSS).

Shown in panel A is a heat map of individual patient samples filtered on those transcripts (*n* = 59) enriched in acute samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue relative to that in acute samples from patients with DSS that were selected for RT-PCR validation. The gene symbols of canonical type I interferon–stimulated genes are underlined next to the heat map. Shown in panel B is a graph representing the mean fold difference in the abundance of 30 (51%) of the 59 transcripts that were validated by RT-PCR. The fold difference is shown for both microarray analysis (*black bars*) and RT-PCR analysis (*white bars*), with values >1 indicating greater abundance in acute samples. Twenty-nine of the 59 transcripts were not validated by RT-PCR (shown by the black vertical line next to the heat map).

NOTE. Data are median (range) values, unless otherwise indicated. DENV, dengue virus; DF, dengue fever; DHF, dengue hemorrhagic fever; DSS, dengue shock syndrome.

b The day of defervescence was regarded as fever day 0.

Table 2

Top 100 differentially abundant transcripts in samples from febrile patients with uncomplicated dengue collected on day 4 relative to autologous convalescent samples collected on day 30

*** Fold charges reflect greater (positive fold change) or lesser (negative fold change) abundance in samples from patients with acute uncomplicated dengue

Table 3

Top 100 differentially abundant transcripts in samples from patients with dengue shock syndrome (DSS) collected on day 4 relative to autologous convalescent samples collected on day 30

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a
Fold changes reflect greater (positive fold change) or lesser (negative fold change) abundance in acute samples from patients with DSS

Table 4

Top 100 differentially abundant transcripts in samples from patients with uncomplicated dengue collected on day 4 relative to samples from patients with dengue shock syndrome collected on day 4

^a
Fold changes reflect greater (positive fold change) or lesser (negative fold change) abundance in acute samples from uncomplicated dengue patients.