

Table 3. Proliferating CD4⁺ T cell clones stimulated by HCV epitope from liver biopsy at weeks 16 and 20 postinoculation

Week	Clone	Pool	Epitope	HCV protein	HCV AA
16	5F	6	LFNILGGWVAAQLAAPGA	NS4B	1808-1825
16	9F	6	LFNILGGWVAAQLAAPGA	NS4B	1808-1825
20	1C	2	YANGSGLDERPYCWHY	E2	474-489
20	8C	2	MVDYPYRLWHYPCTINY	E2	608-624
20	7E	5	KLVALGINAVAYYRGLDV	NS3	1406-1423
20	3F	5	YRLGAVQNEVTLTHPITK	NS3	1626-1643
20	7F	7	EVSVPAEILRKSRRFARA	NS5A	2267-2284

CD4⁺ cells were isolated from liver biopsies at weeks 16 and 20 postinoculation and expanded as individual clones in culture. The HCV epitope displayed on the CD4⁺ cell was mapped by using a proliferation assay with the target cells presenting an individual HCV peptide.