

Short Communication

Chemokine Expression in Simian Immunodeficiency Virus-Induced AIDS Encephalitis

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The pathogenesis of neurological dysfunction associated with human immunodeficiency (HIV)-1 infection is uncertain. However, the presence of macrophage infiltrates in the central nervous system is a key feature of HIV encephalitis and is correlated with HIV-associated dementia. Moreover, it has been demonstrated that HIV-infected monocyte/macrophages can produce toxic substances that may play a critical role in the development of HIV-associated dementia. However, the exact mechanisms responsible for HIV infection and leukocyte recruitment to the central nervous system remain speculative. Similar to HIV-infected patients, simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV)-infected macaque monkeys develop immunosuppression and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)-related inflammatory disorders, including AIDS encephalitis. In this study, we demonstrate that encephalitic brain from SIV-infected animals has elevated immunohistochemical expression of the C-C chemokines, macrophage inflammatory protein-1 α and - β , RANTES, and monocyte chemoattractant protein-3, and the C-X-C chemokine interferon-inducible protein-10. These findings suggest that one or all of these chemokines could be involved in leukocyte recruitment to the brain in SIV-infected macaque monkeys. (*Am J Pathol* 1996, 149:1459–1467)

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-associated dementia is a clinical disorder characterized by cognitive, motor, and behavioral changes¹. A correlation between HIV-associated dementia and the presence of HIV in the central nervous system (CNS),² dendritic pathology,³ and neuronal loss⁴ has been suggested. However, the pathogenesis of HIV-associated dementia remains a mystery. Recently, a stronger association between HIV-associated dementia and differences in the spatial pattern of neurons⁵ and increased numbers of macrophages in the brain has been demonstrated.⁶

Similar to HIV-infected patients, many simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV)-infected macaque monkeys develop primary lentivirus-induced encephalitis.^{7–9} HIV and SIV encephalitis is characterized by parenchymal and perivascular infiltrates of macrophages/microglia and multinucleate giant cells most commonly found in the white matter tracts of the cerebrum and brain stem and the deep gray matter of the CNS.^{8–11} Macrophages/microglia in the CNS are the principal target for HIV and SIV, and abundant viral nucleic acid and antigen are observed in these cellular infiltrates.^{10,12} Although infection of endothelium, astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, and neurons has been demonstrated *in vitro*, infection of these cells *in vivo* is either restricted or nonexistent.^{13–15} Thus, neuronal dysfunction observed in many patients with HIV-associated dementia is most likely a result of factors associated with macrophage/microglia infection and subsequent development of

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macrophage infiltrates in the CNS.⁶ However, pathogenetic mechanisms responsible for the recruitment of monocytes to the CNS in HIV-infected patients remain speculative.

It is well established that the sequential interactions of the selectins, integrins, and members of the immunoglobulin gene superfamily and their corresponding ligands are crucial for leukocyte rolling, firm adhesion, and transendothelial migration at tissue injury sites.¹⁶ In addition to the interactions of leukocyte and endothelial adhesion molecules, monocytes are also activated and migrate in response to chemotactic gradients elicited from inflammatory sites.^{16,17} Pivotal components of this process are a group of chemotactic cytokines, termed chemokines. Chemokines are structurally related, low-molecular-weight, proinflammatory proteins induced by numerous inflammatory and resident cells.¹⁷ They are divided into two subfamilies based on the presence or absence of an amino acid separating the first pair of cysteines (α or C-X-C and β or C-C chemokines). Generally, the C-X-C chemokines stimulate and are chemoattractant for neutrophils, whereas the C-C chemokines activate and attract monocytes, lymphocytes, and eosinophils.¹⁷⁻²⁰ Moreover, many of the chemokines have been shown to attract specific subsets of mononuclear cells.^{18,21}

In this study, we demonstrate that encephalic brain from SIV-infected animals has elevated immunohistochemical expression of the C-C chemokines, macrophage inflammatory protein (MIP)-1 α and - β , RANTES (regulated upon activation normal T cell expressed presumed secreted) and monocyte chemotactic protein (MCP)-3, and the C-X-C chemokine interferon-inducible protein (IP)-10. These findings suggest a role for one or multiple chemokines in the pathogenesis of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) encephalitis.

Materials and Methods

Animals and Virus

Brain tissue from twenty-one rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*), five cynomolgus monkeys (*M. fascicularis*), two pigtailed macaques (*Macaca nemestrina*), and one Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvana*) was collected at death and used for immunohistochemical analysis. The survival time, age, and related animal data are in Table 1. Eighteen of these animals were experimentally infected with SIV. Ten of the twelve animals with SIV encephalitis were inoculated intravenously with either uncloned SIVmac251,

Table 1. *Macaque Monkeys Used for Immunohistochemical Analysis*

Group	Survival in months (mean)	Age in years (mean)	Inoculum
SIV encephalitis (n = 12)	5-50 (12)	1-16 (5.8)	SIV
SIV without encephalitis (n = 6)	1-55 (19)	3-8 (3)	SIV
Uninfected (n = 6)	NA	1-6 (11.2)	-
EAE (n = 5)	1-2 (1.4)	4-9 (6.5)	hBWM

NA, not applicable; hBWM, human brain white matter.

molecularly cloned SIVmac239, or an uncloned macrophage tropic variant of SIVmac239, termed SIVmac239/316.²² The remaining two animals were inoculated intracerebrally with SIVsmm strain B670 (kindly provided by Dr. Michael Murphey-Corb, Tulane University). The procedures associated with the experimental SIV infection of many of these macaques have been described in detail previously.²²⁻²⁴ Although different manifestations of disease have been observed with these isolates of SIV, all of them have been associated with SIV encephalitis terminally.^{8,10,22,24}

Several control groups were also examined. The first group consisted of six SIV-infected animals without encephalitis and the second contained six uninfected rhesus monkeys. The last group consisted of brain tissue from five cynomolgus monkeys with experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE) evaluated as a positive control of non-SIV-induced neurological disease (kindly provided by Drs. Claude Genain and Stephen Hauser). The protocol for in-

Table 2. *Antibodies Used for Immunohistochemical Analysis*

Antigen	Sub-family	Anti-body	Known cellular sources <i>in vivo</i>
MCP-1	C-C	3F11	MØ, endo, pericytes, fibro, epith, SM, keratinocytes, PMNs
MCP-2	C-C	2D5	PCs
MCP-3	C-C	6H5	MØ, endo, keratinocytes
MIP-1 α	C-C	11A3	MØ, endo, fibro
MIP-1 β	C-C	6E6	MØ, endo, fibro, keratinocytes
RANTES	C-C	9H9	Lym, keratinocytes
IP-10	C-X-C	4G3	MØ, endo, keratinocytes, fibro
IL-8	C-X-C	2A2	Lym, MØ, endo, PMNs, fibro, keratinocytes, epith

All antibodies were from LeukoSite, Inc. MØ, monocyte/macrophage; endo, endothelium; fibro, fibroblast; epith, epithelium; SM, smooth muscle; PCs, plasma cells; lym, lymphocyte; PMNs, neutrophils.

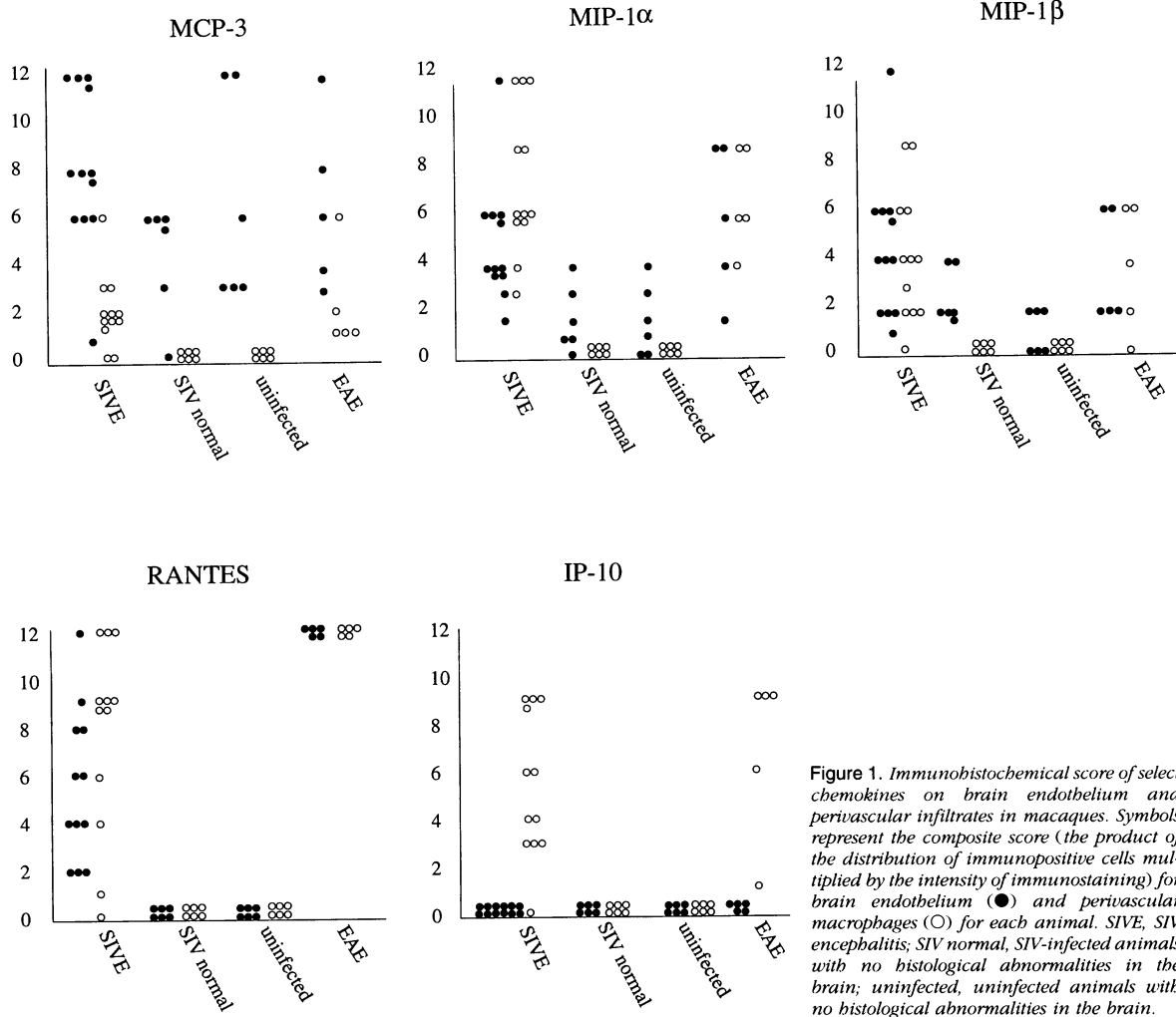


Figure 1. Immunohistochemical score of select chemokines on brain endothelium and perivascular infiltrates in macaques. Symbols represent the composite score (the product of the distribution of immunopositive cells multiplied by the intensity of immunostaining) for brain endothelium (●) and perivascular macrophages (○) for each animal. SIVE, SIV encephalitis; SIV normal, SIV-infected animals with no histological abnormalities in the brain; uninfected, uninfected animals with no histological abnormalities in the brain.

ducing EAE in the animals used in this study has been previously described in detail.²⁵

Before use, all animals were negative for antibodies to SIV, type D retrovirus, and simian T-cell leukemia virus type 1. Animals were housed in accordance with standards of the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care. The investigators adhered to the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" prepared by the Committee on Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the Institute of Laboratory Resources, National Research Council.

Preparation of Monoclonal Antibodies

Monoclonal antibodies to human chemokines were produced by immunizing mice with 10 μ g of recombinant chemokine (Peprotech, Rocky Hill, NJ) four to six times over 8 weeks. Splenocytes from immunized mice

were fused with the SP2/0 cell line using standard procedures. The reactivity and specificity of the panel of anti-chemokine monoclonal antibodies are described elsewhere (C. Mackay, manuscript in preparation). Briefly, monoclonal antibodies to each chemokine were selected by screening by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay as previously described.²⁶ The specificity of each monoclonal antibody was stringently controlled by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay and Western blot assays with a large number of chemokines, including RANTES, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , eotaxin, MCP-1, MCP-2, MCP-3, IP-10, interleukin (IL)-8, GRO α , and NAP-2. The antibodies used in this study had absolute specificity for the chemokines designated and in addition were selected because of their suitability for immunostaining on paraffin sections. In most cases, the monoclonal antibodies were also able to block ligand binding and/or chemotaxis of specific types of leukocytes.

Semiquantitative Immunohistochemical Analysis

Representative samples of brain were processed for histopathological and immunohistochemical examination. The monoclonal antibodies listed in Table 2 were used in a three-layer avidin-biotin-horseradish peroxidase complex procedure with diaminobenzidine as the chromogen.

Chemokine expression on endothelium and perivascular macrophages was semiquantitatively assessed by using intensity of immunostaining and distribution of positive cells as criteria. Each tissue was microscopically examined blindly by two observers and their scores averaged. The numerical values for the distribution of immunoreactive vessels and cellular infiltrates were as follows: 0, none; 1, focal; 2, multifocal; 3, diffuse. The scores for staining intensity were as follows: 0, none; 1, faint; 2, moderate; 3, marked; 4, intense. The product of these two values for distribution and intensity of positive vessels and cellular infiltrates (composite score) had a theoretical range of 0 to 12. These data are presented in Figure 1.

Results

Histopathological Examination of Macaque Monkeys

Eighteen of the twenty-nine macaques selected for this study were infected with SIV. Twelve of these eighteen SIV-infected macaques contained parenchymal and perivascular macrophage/microglial and multinucleate giant cell infiltrates characteristic of SIV encephalitis. Only one of the twelve animals with SIV encephalitis had a concurrent opportunistic infection in the CNS. This animal had *Toxoplasma gondii* tachyzoites and cysts within the cerebral cortex and spinal cord. Brains from the remaining six SIV-infected and from six normal, uninfected macaques were free of histopathological abnormalities.

All five macaques with EAE had multifocal to extensive areas of inflammation characterized by central zones of necrosis and hemorrhage admixed with

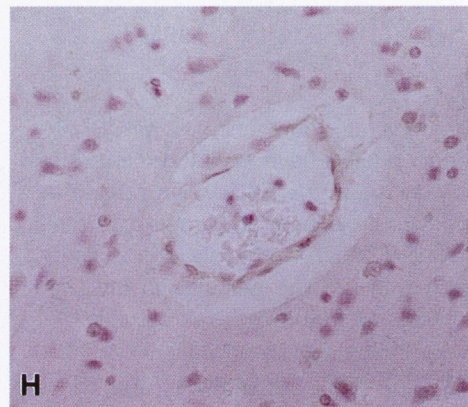
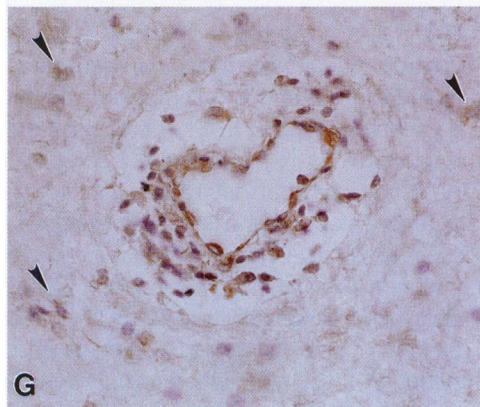
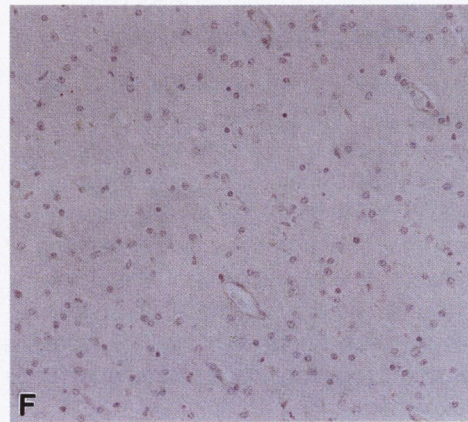
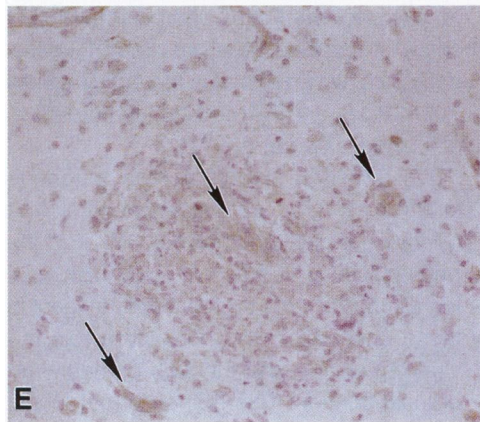
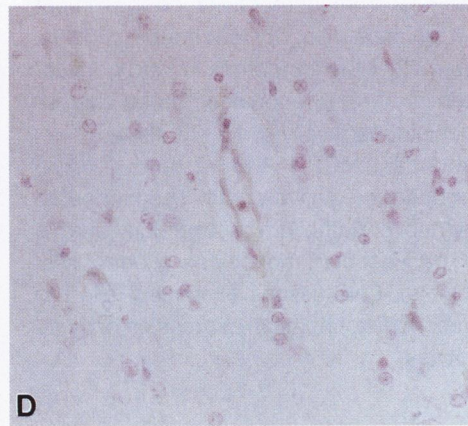
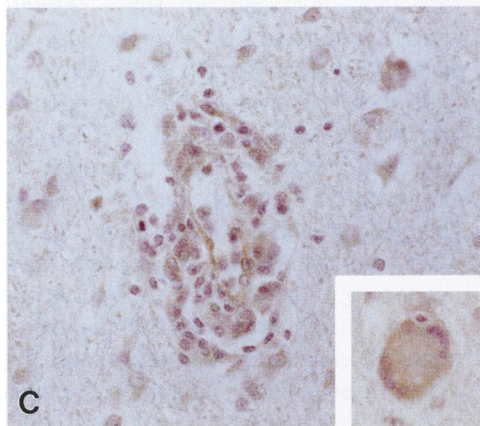
abundant neutrophils. The surrounding parenchyma contained dense aggregates of glial cells and prominent vessels having variably sized perivascular cuffs of lymphocytes and macrophages.

MCP-3, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , RANTES, and IP-10 Are Elevated in Macaques with SIV Encephalitis

As the intimate interaction of circulating leukocytes and endothelium is pivotal for the development of cellular infiltrates in the CNS, we focused our examination of chemokine expression in SIV encephalitis on these two cell types. Endothelial expression of MCP-3, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , and RANTES was elevated in all macaques with SIV encephalitis (Figures 1 and 2, A, C, E, and G). MCP-3 expression on endothelium was intense and diffuse within meningeal vessels from both encephalitic and nonencephalitic animals (Figure 2B). However, endothelial expression of MCP-3 in parenchymal vessels was only markedly expressed in animals with SIV encephalitis (Figure 2A), but this expression was not uniformly associated with perivascular infiltrates. In animals with SIV encephalitis, capillaries and venules had moderate to intense expression of MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , and RANTES (Figures 1 and 2, C, E, and G). Expression of MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , and RANTES was seen in vessels surrounded by infiltrates but was also seen in vessels without infiltrates. In contrast to MCP-3, there was minimal endothelial expression of MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , and RANTES in nonencephalitic animals (Figures 1 and 2, D, F, and H).

Perivascular monocytes/microglia and multinucleate giant cells in animals with SIV encephalitis expressed variable amounts of MCP-3, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , RANTES, and IP-10 (Figures 1 and 2, A, C, E, and G). This expression was not observed in nonencephalitic animals (Figure 2, B, D, F, and H). In general, MIP-1 α and RANTES immunoreactivity on perivascular monocytes/microglia and multinucleate giant cells was moderate to intense and greater than that observed on the endothelium in animals with SIV encephalitis (Figures 1 and 2, C and G). IP-10, which

Figure 2. Immunohistochemical expression of MCP-3, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β and RANTES in SIV-infected macaques with (A, C, E, and G) and without (B, D, F, and H) SIV encephalitis. MCP-3 expression was intense on endothelium and smooth muscle in parenchymal vessels in animals with SIV encephalitis (A), but only faint expression was observed on perivascular infiltrates (A, arrow). MCP-3 expression on endothelium and smooth muscle in meningeal vessels was also intense in nonencephalitic animals (B). MIP-1 α was intense on perivascular macrophages/microglia (C) and multinucleate giant cells (C, inset) in SIV-infected macaques with SIV encephalitis but negligible in nonencephalitic animals (D). MIP-1 β immunoreactivity on CNS endothelium was intense (E, arrows) and moderate to marked on surrounding perivascular macrophages/microglia and multinucleate giant cells in SIV-infected macaques with SIV encephalitis (E) but faint to nonexistent in nonencephalitic animals (F). RANTES expression ranged from moderate to intense on endothelium and perivascular infiltrates in SIV-infected animals with encephalitis (G) but was negligible in nonencephalitic animals (H). Note faint to moderate expression on astrocytes (G, arrowheads). Avidin-biotin complex technique with Mayer's hematoxylin counterstain; original magnification, $\times 360$ (A to D, G, and H) and $\times 300$ (E and F).



was not expressed on endothelium in any of the animals, was faintly to moderately expressed on the perivascular infiltrates of animals with SIV encephalitis (Figure 1). MIP-1 β and MCP-3 expression on perivascular infiltrates in most animals was faint (Figure 1, A and E).

Although we focused on endothelium and perivascular infiltrates, chemokine expression was not restricted to these cell types in the brain. Many cell types can produce chemokines.¹⁷ In addition, chemokines can bind to heparin sulfate on endothelium and extracellular matrices and to specific cell surface receptors.¹⁷ In this study, we observed marked to intense MIP-1 β immunoreactivity on basement membrane in animals with SIV encephalitis. Thus, many cell types other than endothelium and perivascular infiltrates in the CNS expressed these chemokines immunohistochemically (data not shown).

Despite abundant MCP-1, MCP-2, and IL-8 expression on macaque positive-control tissue (normal skin keratinocytes, endothelium of superficial dermal plexus, and perivascular monocytes, neutrophils, and plasma cells), CNS tissues examined failed to reveal any immunohistochemical expression of these three chemokines.

Chemokine Expression in Macaques with Experimental Allergic Encephalomyelitis

Chemokine expression in macaques with EAE was essentially identical to that in animals with SIV encephalitis (Figure 1) with the exception of moderate diffuse IL-8 and MCP-1 immunoreactivity (data not shown). Diffuse expression of MCP-1 was observed on neurons and astrocytes in the area surrounding dense inflammation. IL-8 was observed on endothelium and perivascular neutrophils and macrophages. As neutrophils were observed in all of the EAE cases, and IL-8 is a potent neutrophil chemoattractant, this finding was expected.

Discussion

This study demonstrates that animals with SIV-induced AIDS encephalitis have elevated expression of select chemokines in the CNS when compared with uninfected controls and SIV-infected animals without encephalitis. Most importantly, this elevation was associated with cellular infiltrates in the CNS and abundant virus as we have shown previously.¹⁰ As these same chemokines were also elevated in animals with EAE, these findings likely represent a general phenomenon associated with leukocyte re-

cruitment to the CNS. This is supported by the minimal expression of these chemokines in nonencephalitic brain from SIV-infected animals and suggests that these chemokines are induced by local factors in inflamed brain and not by systemic factors induced by infection with SIV.

Our *in vivo* results are important in light of recent *in vitro* findings suggesting that the C-C chemokines MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , and RANTES are the major HIV-suppressive factors released by CD8⁺ cells.²⁷ Another study demonstrated elevated levels of these three chemokines in purified populations of CD4⁺ lymphocytes from HIV-negative individuals who are repeatedly exposed to HIV.²⁸ Moreover, they showed that these CD4⁺ lymphocytes are more resistant to *in vitro* infection with multiple primary isolates of HIV-1 than were CD4⁺ lymphocytes isolated from nonexposed individuals.²⁸ These findings suggest that, at least *in vitro*, chemokines released by CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ lymphocytes may have a substantial role in limiting HIV infection of cells. The mechanisms underlying these observations have not been defined, but Feng et al²⁹ report that a fusion coreceptor (fusin) along with CD4 enables T-cell-tropic HIV isolates to infect target cells. This cofactor, a putative seven-transmembrane, G-protein-coupled receptor is similar (37% amino acid identity) to the receptor for the C-X-C chemokine IL-8.²⁹ Therefore, some chemokine receptors may function as fusion cofactors, which explains the antiviral activity of MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , and RANTES in the studies of Cocchi et al²⁷ and Paxton et al.²⁸

Our findings in SIV-infected macaques demonstrating elevated immunohistochemical expression of these same chemokines on endothelium and perivascular infiltrates in encephalitic brain containing abundant virus suggest that, at least in the brain, these chemokines do not play a role in containing viral replication and function primarily as mediators of inflammation. This is the normal function of chemokines rather than the exception (for review see Ref. 17). For instance, the role of chemokines in controlling leukocyte influx into tissues has been discussed in numerous inflammatory conditions such as atherosclerosis, EAE, rheumatoid arthritis, and pneumonia.³⁰⁻³³ Furthermore, recent studies have demonstrated that neutralizing antibodies directed against select chemokines administered to rodents during inductive stages of inflammation significantly inhibited T cell and monocytic recruitment to sites of delayed hypersensitivity reaction,³⁴ pulmonary granulomas,³⁵ and interstitial pneumonia and fibrosis.³¹ Although the interactions of chemokine expression and viral infection *in vivo* have not been investigated,

when knockout mice deficient for the gene encoding MIP-1 α were exposed to Coxsackievirus, they maintained viral titers indistinguishable from those of wild-type mice but did not develop virus-induced myocarditis.³⁶ Thus, the primary function of chemokines *in vivo* may be as mediators of inflammation.

Although the exact mechanisms responsible for neurological damage associated with HIV infection are unknown, a correlation between macrophage/microglial infiltrates and clinical disease exists.⁶ Exactly how macrophages/microglia contribute to HIV-associated dementia is unknown. However, their involvement is a unifying feature of all currently proposed mechanisms of neuronal dysfunction in patients with HIV-associated dementia.³⁷⁻³⁹ The mechanisms responsible for development of these macrophage/microglial infiltrates remain a mystery. We have demonstrated elevated VCAM-1 in encephalitic brain from SIV-infected macaques and HIV-infected patients and that monocytic cells expressing $\alpha 4\beta 1$ (VLA-4) preferentially bind to these VCAM-1-expressing vessels.^{15,23,40} However, it is unlikely that VCAM-1/ $\alpha 4\beta 1$ interactions alone are responsible for recruitment of mononuclear cells to the CNS in HIV and SIV encephalitis.

Recently, studies examining brain from patients with HIV-associated dementia showed elevated MIP-1 α and MIP-1 β mRNA as compared with HIV-infected patients without dementia.³⁹ Likewise, we show elevated MIP-1 α and MIP-1 β in macaques with SIV encephalitis. MIP-1 α and MIP-1 β are potent chemoattractants for monocytes and lymphocytes^{21,30} and in conjunction with cytokine-induced adhesion molecule expression provide a likely mechanism for monocyte recruitment to the CNS in HIV-infected patients.

Using immunohistochemical techniques, we are unable to differentiate between cells actively producing chemokines and cells binding released chemokines. However, the significant immunoreactivity on macrophages/microglia and multinucleate giant cells in animals with SIV encephalitis suggests that these cells are the primary producers of these chemokines. From previous studies we know that these macrophages/microglia are activated and contain abundant viral nucleic acid, antigen, and virus.^{8,10} Furthermore, studies have shown that MIP-1 α and MIP-1 β are induced in cultured human monocytes upon infection with HIV.³⁹ This study suggests that, in addition to our previous findings demonstrating a role for VCAM-1 in monocyte recruitment to the CNS in macaques with SIV encephalitis, elevated C-C chemokines may be important contributors to this process.

Note Added in Proof

Since the submission of this manuscript it has been determined that MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , and RANTES bind to C-C chemokine receptor 5, and that this is the major coreceptor for many macrophage-tropic strains of HIV-1.⁴¹⁻⁴⁵ The fusion coreceptor, termed LESTR/fusin, used by some T-cell-tropic strains of HIV-1 is the natural receptor for the C-X-C chemokine, stem cell-derived factor-1.^{46,47}

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