

Supporting Online Material

Materials and Methods

Figs. S1 to S9

References

Materials and Methods

Mice. Mice were maintained and used in accordance with the University of Pennsylvania Institutional Animal Care and Use Guidelines. Mice were housed in specific pathogen-free conditions prior to use. Floxed *Eomes* mice were generated as described in Fig. S1. Mice carrying the floxed *Eomes* allele were backcrossed 8 generations to C57BL/6, bred to homozygosity, and crossed to mice transgenic for Cre under control of CD4 promoter/enhancer elements (*S1*). CD4 Cre-mediated excision of exon 1 of the floxed *Eomes* allele resulted in mice carrying a null allele of *Eomes*, specifically in T cells. Mice with T cells lacking both *Eomes* were, in turn, bred to homozygosity with *Tbx21*^{-/-} mice, resulting in mice with combined deficiency for T-bet and *Eomes* in the T cell compartment.

Infections. Mice of indicated genotypes were infected with 2 X 10⁵ plaque forming units (p.f.u.) of lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) Armstrong strain by intraperitoneal injection. For analysis of the endogenous CD8⁺ T cell response, H-2D^b GP33-41 and H-2D^b NP396-404 tetramers were used to identify and/or sort LCMV-specific CD8⁺ T cells. For CD4 and CD8 depletion experiments, mice received intra-peritoneal injection (0.5 mg in PBS) of GK1.5 or 2.43 antibody, respectively, 1 day before and 1 day after infection with LCMV, as well as every 3 days thereafter. Control-treated mice received PBS. For LCMV-derived peptide stimulations, splenocytes were stimulated for 6 hours with H-2D^b-restricted peptides GP33-41 (0.5 μg/ml) and NP396-404 (0.5 μg/ml), or the H-2A^b-restricted GP61-80 peptide (0.5 μg/ml) in the presence of brefeldin A (1 μg/ml). Surface staining, intracellular (cytokine, Ki-67, and active Caspase 3) staining, and flow cytometry were performed as previously described (*S2*). Antibodies used for flow cytometry were purchased from BD Biosciences.

Histology. Organs were harvested and fixed overnight in 10% formalin at 4°C. After fixation, organs were progressively dehydrated in 70%, 95%, then 100% EtOH. Dehydrated organs were paraffin embedded, sectioned, and stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E). Images were acquired on a Leica 500 microscope.

Quantitative real-time RT-PCR. Total RNA was extracted using Trizol Reagent (Invitrogen). 1 microgram of RNA was reverse-transcribed using random hexamer primers and Maloney-MLV reverse transcriptase (Promega). Quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction was performed using an ABI PRISM 7900HT Sequence Detection System (Applied Biosystems) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The following intron-spanning primer and probe set was used for detection of HPRT: sense 5'-CTCCTCAGACCGCTTTTTCG-3', anti-sense 5'-TAACCTGGTTCATCATCGCTAATC-3', probe VIC-5'-CCGTCATGCCGACCCGCAG-3'-TAMRA. Pre-synthesized Taqman Gene Expression Assays (Applied Biosystems) were used to amplify the following sequences (gene symbols and Applied Biosystems primer set numbers in parentheses): IL-17A (*Il17a*, Mm00439619_m1), IL-21 (*Il21*, Mm00517640_m1), IL-22 (*Il22*, Mm00517640_m1).

Mm00444241_m1), IL-23R (*Il23r*, Mm00519942_m1), and ROR γ t (*Rorc*, Mm00441139_m1). Levels of test gene are expressed relative to HPRT, with the lowest value standardized at 1.

Cytotoxicity assay. Splenocytes from wild-type C57BL/6 mice were labeled with two different concentrations (5 μ M = “dim” or 50 μ M = “bright”) of carboxyfluorescein diacetate succinimidyl ester (CFSE) (Molecular Probes). CFSE bright splenocytes were incubated either without peptide or with LCMV-derived peptides GP33-41 or NP396-404 for 1h at 37°C, while CFSE dim splenocytes were incubated without peptide 1h at 37°C. After incubation, CFSE-labeled cells were washed and counted. 5×10^4 dim CFSE-labeled cells were mixed with 5×10^4 bright CFSE-labeled cells either pulsed with no peptide (control targets), GP33-41 (“GP33 targets”), or NP396-404 (“NP396 targets”). Percentages of GP33-specific or NP396-specific CD8⁺ T cells from d8 LCMV-infected mice of different genotypes were determined by specific TNF- α production (intact in all genotypes) in response to 6 hr stimulation with GP33-41 or NP396-404. Increasing doses of GP33-specific or NP396-specific CD8⁺ T cells from different genotypes were added to wells containing various combinations of target cells. Unlabeled, wild-type CD57BL/6 splenocytes were added as necessary to equalize cell concentrations in each well. After 24hr incubation at 37°C, CFSE-bright target cell destruction was assessed by flow cytometry. % specific lysis was calculated by subtracting % control cell lysis at a given dose of effector cells from % GP33 or NP396 target cell lysis at a given dose of effector cells.

Supplemental Figures

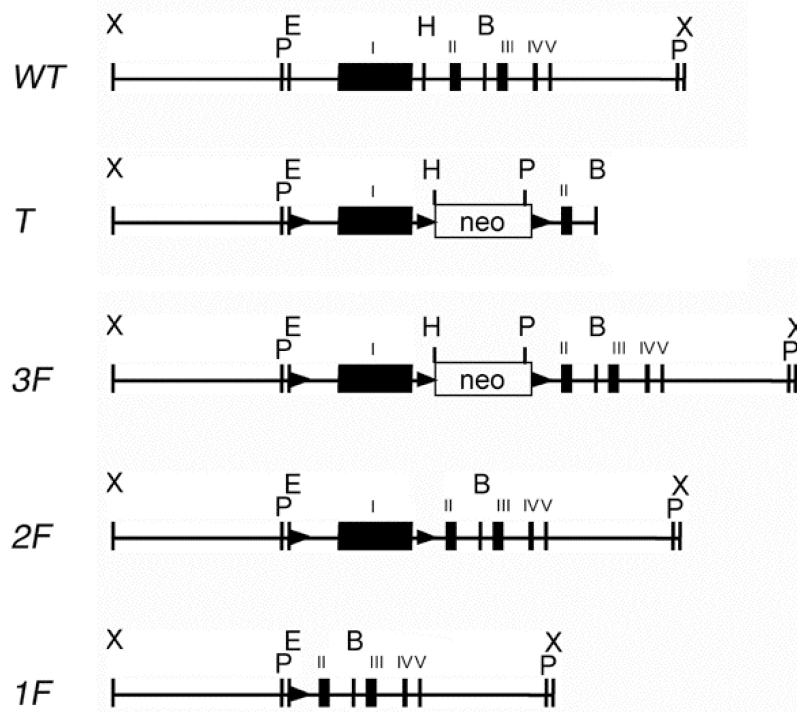


Fig. S1. Generation of floxed *Eomes* mice. A targeting construct (“T”) containing a neomycin resistance cassette (“neo”) flanked by *loxP* sites, was made where *loxP* sites flanked a 2.5 kb Eco RI-Hind III fragment containing exon I of the *Eomes* locus. The 3’ end of the construct consisted of the 1.2 kb Hind III-Bam HI fragment containing exon II. This construct was electroporated into R1 ES cells (S3). Electroporation, selection and maintenance of ES cells have been previously described (S4). Southern blotting was used to identify clones which had undergone homologous recombination. Pst I digested DNA from selected clones was probed with an Eco RI-SacI probe, which generated an approximately 7.4 kb fragment in wild type mice (“WT”), but the presence of a Pst I site in the neomycin resistance cassette generated a 4.9 kb fragment for the homologously recombined floxed *Eomes* allele (“3F”). A partial restriction enzyme map is shown: Bam HI (“B”), Eco RI (“E”), Hind III (“H”), Pst I (“P”) and Xba I (“X”). The *loxP*-flanked neomycin resistance cassette was deleted by Protamine Cre-mediated excision in germ cells of male mice (“2F”) (S5), and PCR with selected primers was used to map deletions. Cre-mediated excision of exon I of the *Eomes* locus results in the “1F” null allele of *Eomes*.

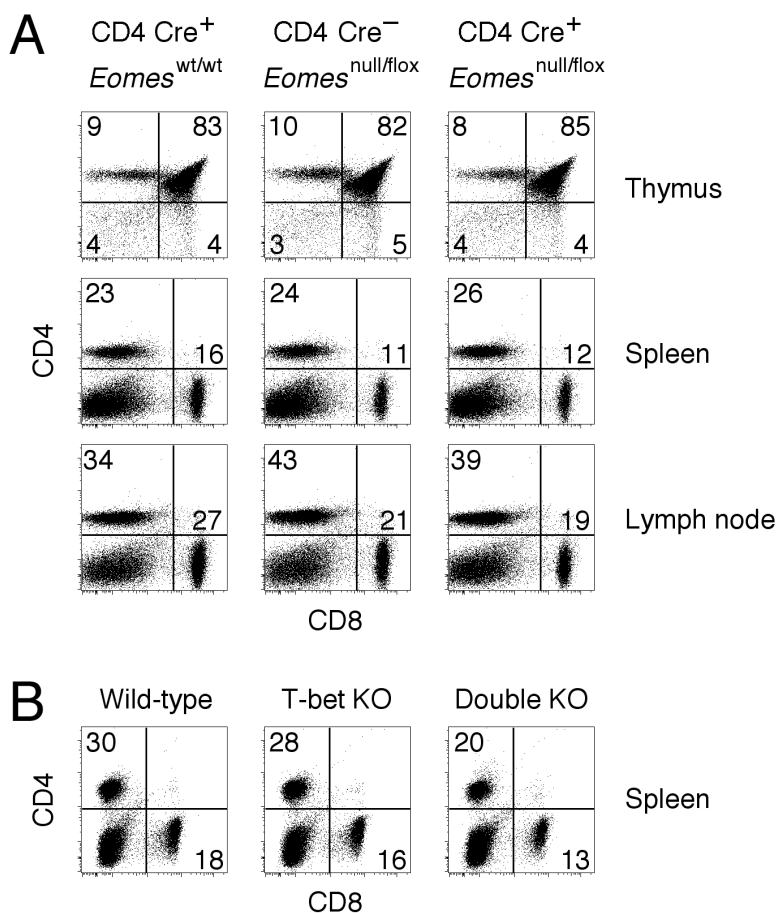


Fig. S2. T cell development in the absence of Eomes and/or T-bet. **(A)** Flow cytometry of T cells from indicated genotypes. Numbers represent % of cells from thymus, spleen, or lymph nodes expressing CD4 or CD8. *Eomes*^{wt/wt} CD4 Cre⁺ mice were similar to wild-type mice (S6). *Eomes*^{null/flox} CD4 Cre⁺ mice were indistinguishable from *Eomes*^{flox/flox} CD4 Cre⁺ mice (S6). **(B)** Flow cytometry of splenocytes from wild-type (“Wild-type”), *Tbx21*^{-/-} (“T-bet KO”), or *Tbx21*^{-/-} *Eomes*^{flox/flox} CD4 Cre⁺ (“Double KO”) mice. Numbers represent % of cells expressing CD4 or CD8. Results are representative of at least 3 independent experiments.

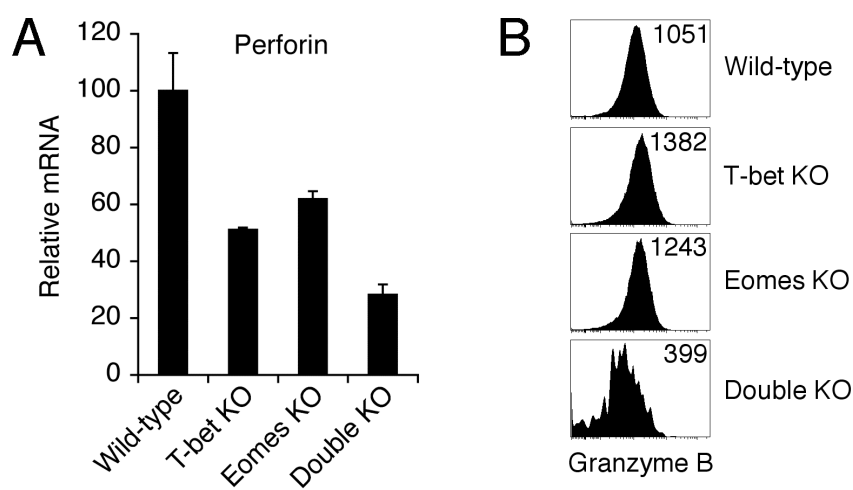


Fig. S3. Impaired cytotoxic differentiation of CD8⁺ T cells lacking both T-bet and Eomes. **(A)** Perforin mRNA expression in LCMV-specific H-2D^bGP33⁺ CD8⁺ T cells 8d after infection determined by quantitative real-time PCR (Q-PCR). Values represent mean \pm SEM of triplicate determinations normalized to HPRT. **(B)** Flow cytometry of granzyme B expression in H-2D^bNP396⁺ CD8⁺ T cells 8d after infection; numbers in histograms indicate mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of granzyme B expression. All results are representative of at least 3 independent experiments.

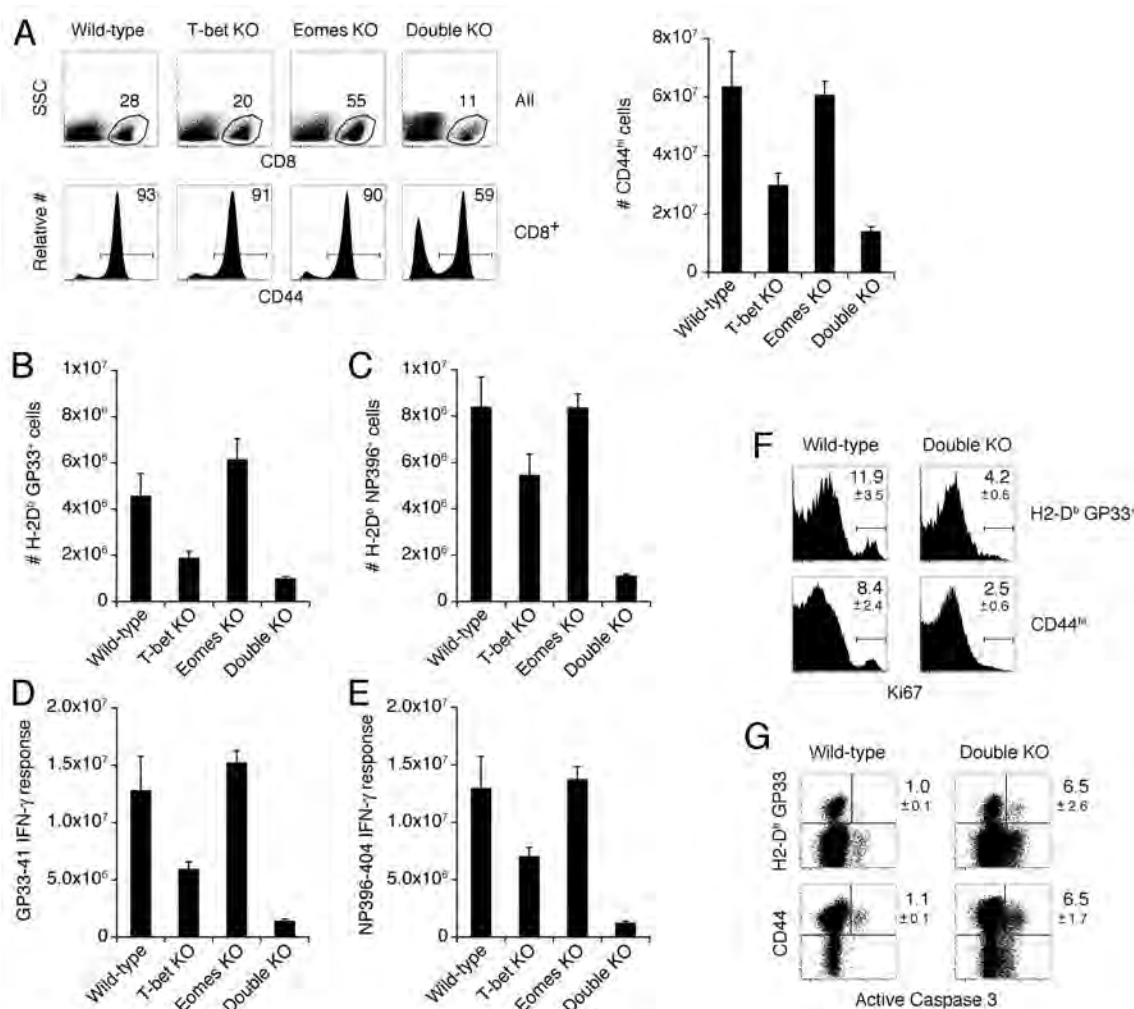


Fig. S4. Defective accumulation of virus-specific CD8⁺ T cells lacking both T-bet and Eomes. (A) Left, splenocytes from mice of the indicated genotype were examined by flow cytometry 8d after infection with LCMV. Top row shows % CD8⁺ T cells. Bottom row shows % CD44^{hi} (activated) CD8⁺ T cells. Right, quantification of CD44^{hi}CD8⁺ T cells in spleens of infected mice. Double KO cells accumulate 4.5-fold less than Wild-type cells. (B-E) Quantification of LCMV-specific CD8⁺ T cells 8d after LCMV infection, as assessed by (B) H-2D^bGP33 tetramer staining or (C) H-2D^bNP396 tetramer staining and IFN-γ production in response to stimulation with (D) GP33-41 peptide or (E) NP396-404 peptide. Results represent the mean ±SEM of mice from multiple experiments; wild-type, n=9; T-bet KO, n=7; Eomes KO n=4; Double KO, n=9. (F, G) Decreased proliferation and increased apoptosis of virus-specific Double KO CD8⁺ T cells. Splenocytes were isolated 7d after LCMV infection and stained for (F) Ki-67 to assess proliferation (S7) or (G) active Caspase 3 to detect dying cells (S8). For (F), upper histograms contain H2-D^bGP33⁺CD8⁺ events while lower histograms depict all activated CD44^{hi}CD8⁺ cells. Numbers represent % Ki-67 expression as mean ±SEM from 7 wild-type and 8 Double KO mice from two separate experiments. For (G), CD8⁺ events are depicted. Plots show Caspase 3 expression as a % of H2-D^bGP33⁺ cells (upper row) or CD44^{hi} (lower row) cells. Numbers represent mean ±SEM from 4 wild-type and 5 Double KO mice.

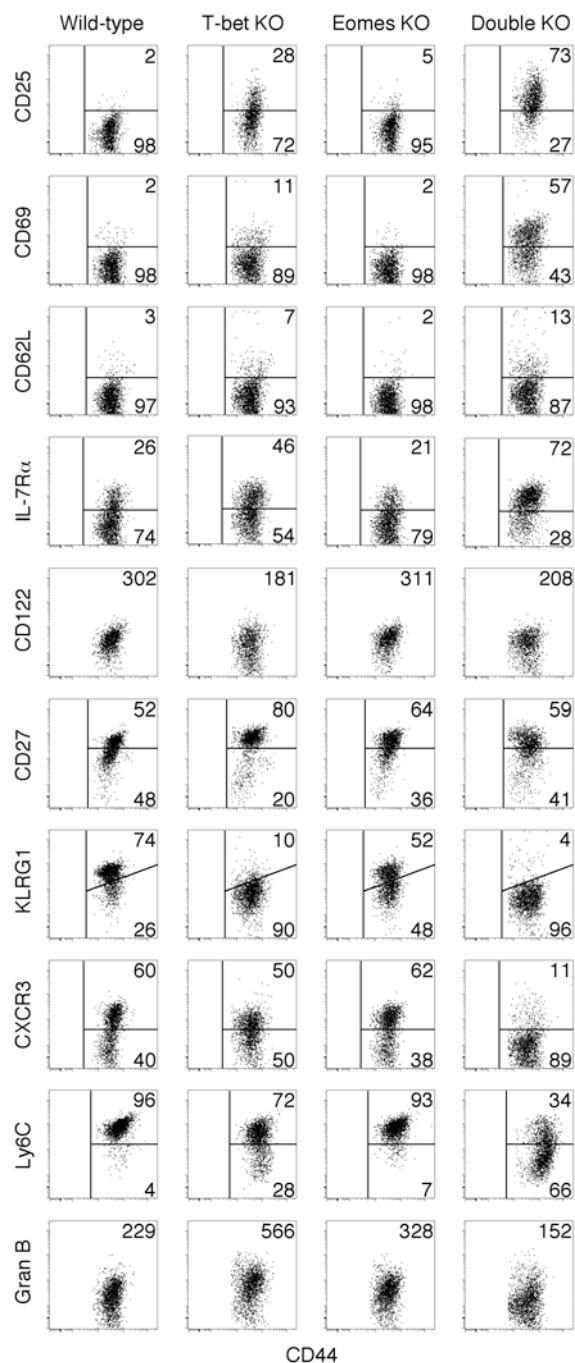


Fig. S5. Abnormal phenotypic markers of virus-specific CD8⁺ T cells from Double KO mice. Representative flow cytometry of GP33-specific CD8⁺ T cells from spleens 8d after LMCV infection. Plots show H-2D^bGP33⁺ events; numbers represent % of cells expressing indicated markers, except for CD122 and granzyme B (“Gran B”) plots where numbers represent MFI. A similar pattern was observed with NP396-specific CD8⁺ T cells (S6). The elevated expression of activation markers such as CD25 and CD69 likely reflects continued antigen exposure (S9), while abnormalities in expression of CD27, KLRG1, CXCR3, Ly6C, and Granzyme B likely reflect the abnormal differentiation of DKO cells (S10). Results are representative of 5 independent experiments.

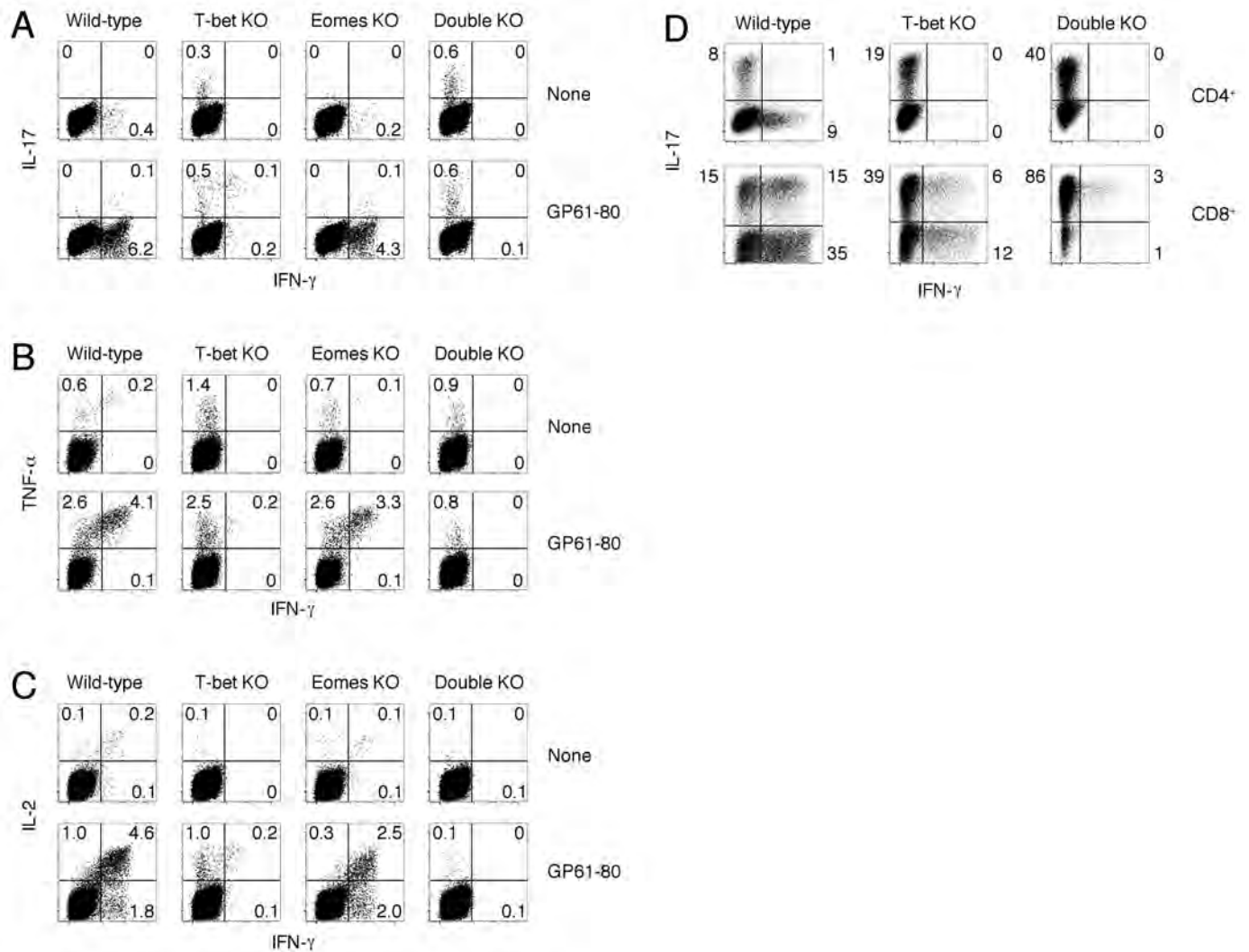


Fig. S6. Cytokine production by virus-specific CD4⁺ T cells lacking T-bet and Eomes. (A-C) Splenocytes were isolated 8d after LCMV infection and cultured without (upper rows within pairs) or with (lower rows) the MHC class II H-2A^b-restricted GP61-80 peptide LCMV-derived peptide GP61-80 (bottom row). IFN-γ versus (A) IL-17, (B) TNF-α, and (C) IL-2 expression were assessed by intracellular staining. Only CD4⁺ events are displayed. Numbers represent % of CD4⁺ T cells expressing the indicated cytokine. Results are representative of 5 independent experiments. (D) Sensitivity of intracellular cytokine detection. Cytokine expression by CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T cells from naïve mice stimulated in vitro for 3d in the presence of Type 17 inducing cytokines, TGF-β (2 ng/ml) and IL-6 (20 ng/ml). Although CD4⁺ T cells from T-bet KO and Double KO mice have enhanced polarization toward IL-17 expression in vitro, the low frequency of virus-specific CD4⁺ T cells from these genotypes in vivo (panel A) may reflect a role for T-bet in regulating differentiation, proliferation, or survival of virus-specific Type 17 CD4⁺ T cells during LCMV infection.

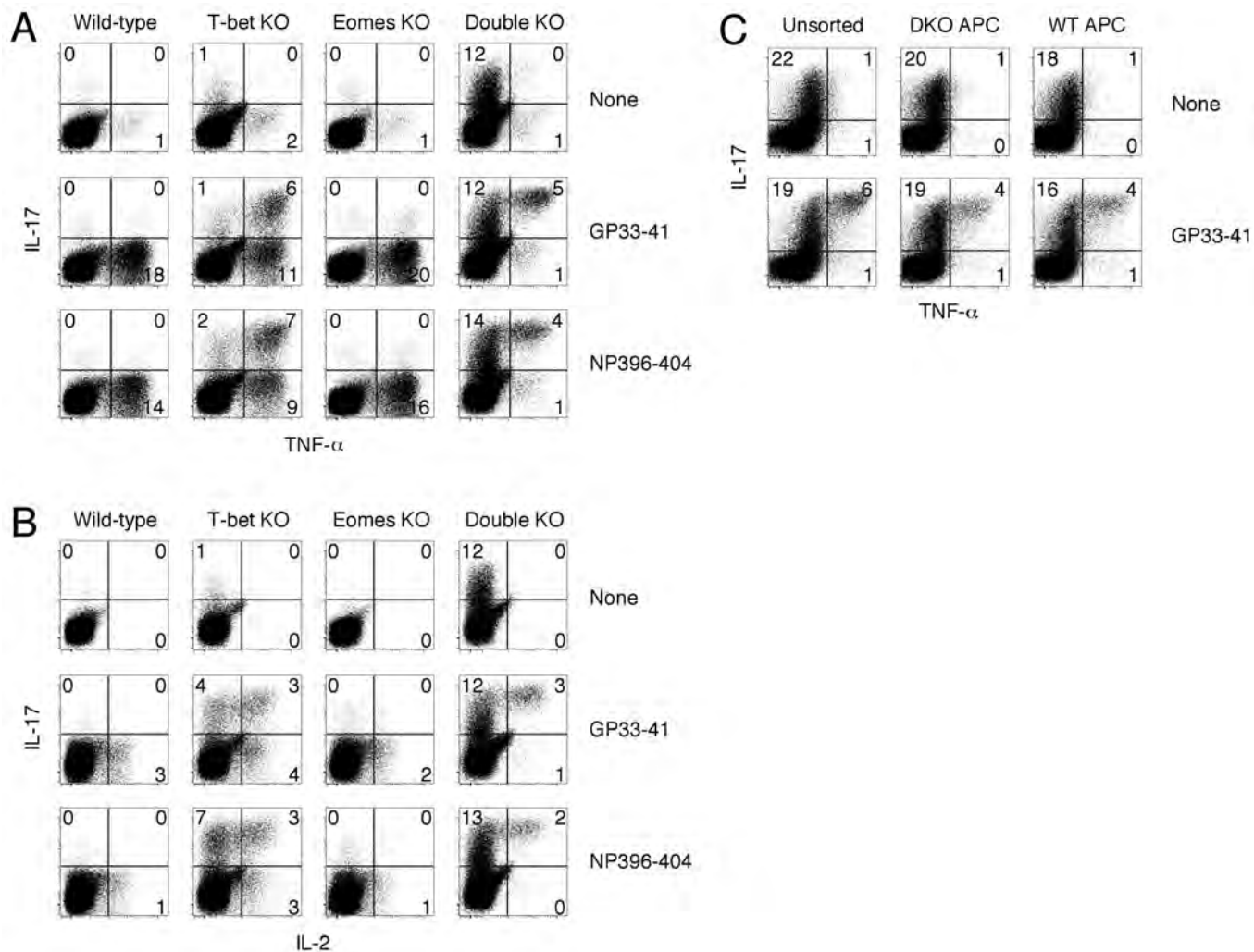


Fig. S7. TNF- α and IL-2 production by virus-specific CD8⁺ T cells lacking both T-bet and Eomes. (A and B) Splenocytes were isolated 8d after LCMV infection and given no stimulation (top row) or stimulated with LCMV-derived peptides GP33-41 (middle row) or NP396-404 (bottom row); IL-17 and (A) TNF- α or (B) IL-2 production were assessed by intracellular staining; plots show CD8⁺ events; numbers indicate % of CD8⁺ T cells expressing the indicated cytokine. Results are representative of 3 independent experiments. (C) IL-17 production by Double KO CD8⁺ T cells in the absence of specific peptide restimulation or infected APCs. CD8⁺ T cells were sorted from spleens of Double KO mice 7d after LCMV infection. Purified Double KO CD8⁺ T cells were cultured for 6hr with CD8-depleted splenocytes from the same LCMV-infected Double KO mice (“DKO APC”) or CD8-depleted splenocytes from naïve wild-type mice (“WT APC”) without or with LCMV-derived peptide GP33-41. Unsorted whole splenocytes from the same LCMV-infected Double KO mice are included for comparison (left column). Results are representative of two independent experiments. The expression of IL-17 by Double KO cells without specific re-stimulation could, therefore, be due to persistent virus in vivo and/or constitutive expression of this cytokine.

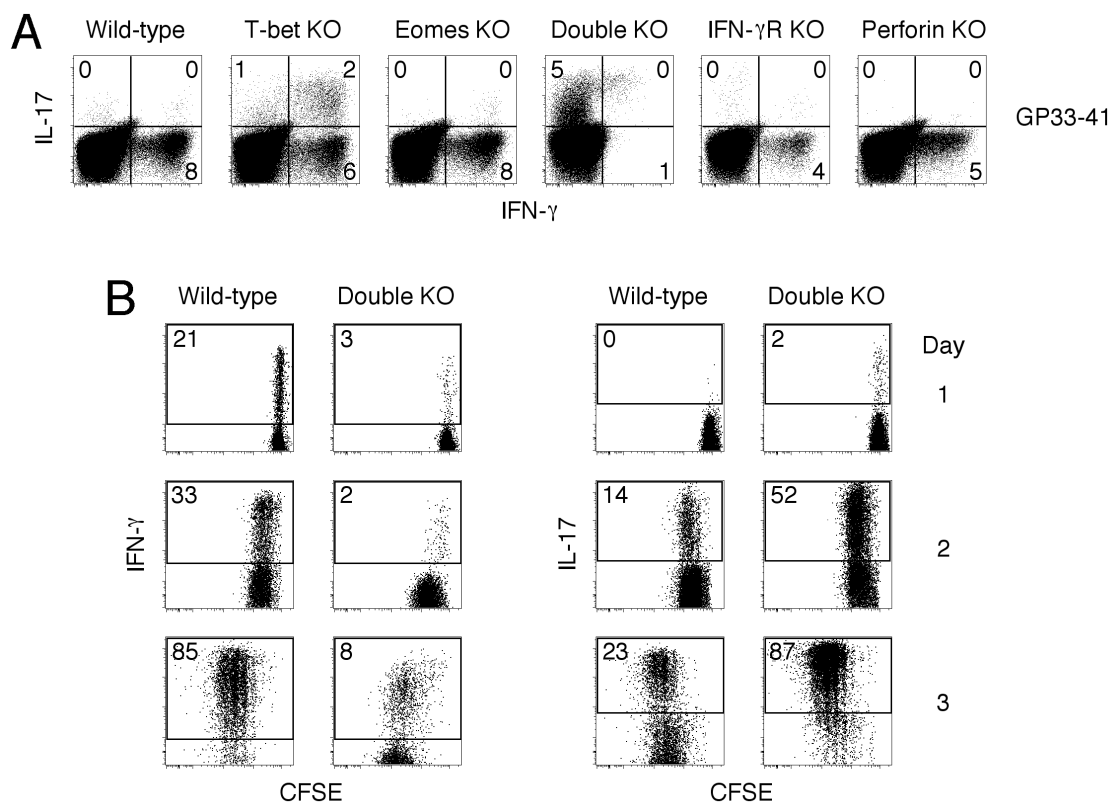


Fig. S8. Type 17 differentiation of Double KO CD8⁺ T cells is not secondary to defective cytotoxic effector function or proliferation. **(A)** Splenocytes were isolated 7d after LCMV infection and stimulated with LCMV-derived peptide GP33-41. Cytokine production was assessed by intracellular staining. Plots show CD8⁺ events; numbers represent % of CD8⁺ T cells expressing the indicated cytokine. Similar pattern observed in response to stimulation with LCMV-derived peptide NP396-404 or PMA plus ionomycin (S6). Results are representative of 2 independent experiments. These results indicate that the deviation towards the Type 17 CD8⁺ T cell fate is not dependent on impaired perforin expression or IFN-gamma signaling. **(B)** Splenocytes from naïve mice were CFSE-labeled and stimulated in vitro in the presence of TGF- β (2 ng/ml) and IL-6 (20 ng/ml). Cytokine production by CD8⁺ T cells as a function of CFSE dilution was analyzed at the indicated days. Numbers indicate % of cells expressing cytokine. These findings suggest that defective division by Double KO CD8⁺ T cells is not required for their deviation towards the Type 17 fate.

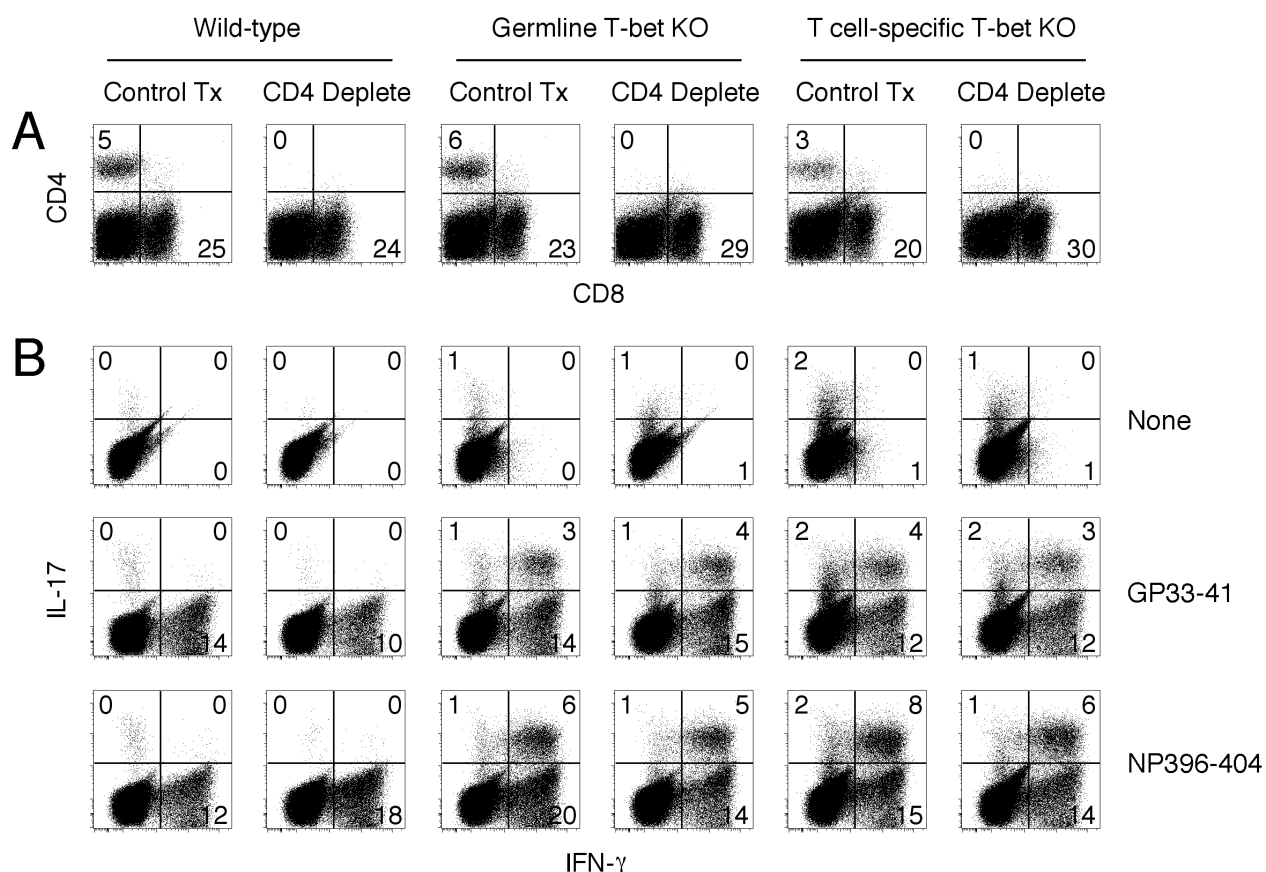


Fig. S9. Type 17 differentiation of virus-specific CD8⁺ T cells is not contingent on T-bet deficiency in innate immune cells or CD4⁺ T cells. T-bet can function in innate immune cells to shape interactions between host and pathogen (*S11*). Thus, T-bet deficiency in immune cells other than T cells might contribute to the initiation or propagation of the Type 17 CD8⁺ T cell response to LCMV in mice with germline deletion of T-bet. In order to address this possibility, we examined the immune response to LCMV in mice with T cell-specific deletion of T-bet. “T cell-specific T-bet KO” represents *Tbx21*^{flox/flox} CD4 Cre⁺ mice (manuscript in preparation). Mice of the indicated genotype were treated with PBS (“Control Tx”) or anti-CD4 (“CD4 Deplete”, mAb GK1.5, 0.5 mg i.p.) 1d before, 1d after, and 5d after LCMV infection. Splenocytes were isolated 8d after LCMV infection. **(A)** Cells were stained for CD4 and CD8; numbers represent % expressing the indicated marker. **(B)** Cells were given no stimulation (top row) or stimulated with LCMV-derived peptides GP33-41 (middle row) or NP396-404 (bottom row); IFN- γ and IL-17 production were assessed by intracellular staining. Plots show CD8⁺ events; numbers represent % expressing the indicated cytokine. Results are representative of 2 independent experiments. These findings indicate that IL-17 expression by mutant CD8⁺ T cells is not contingent on T-bet deficiency in CD4⁺ T cells or cells of the innate immune system.

Supplemental References

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- S10. A. M. Intlekofer *et al.*, *J Exp Med* **204**, 2015.
- S11. W. S. Garrett *et al.*, *Cell* **131**, 33.