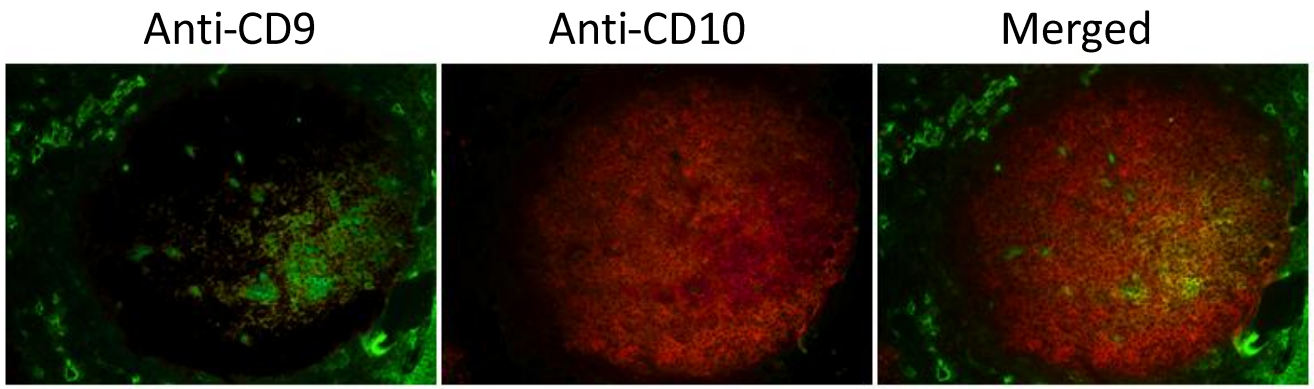
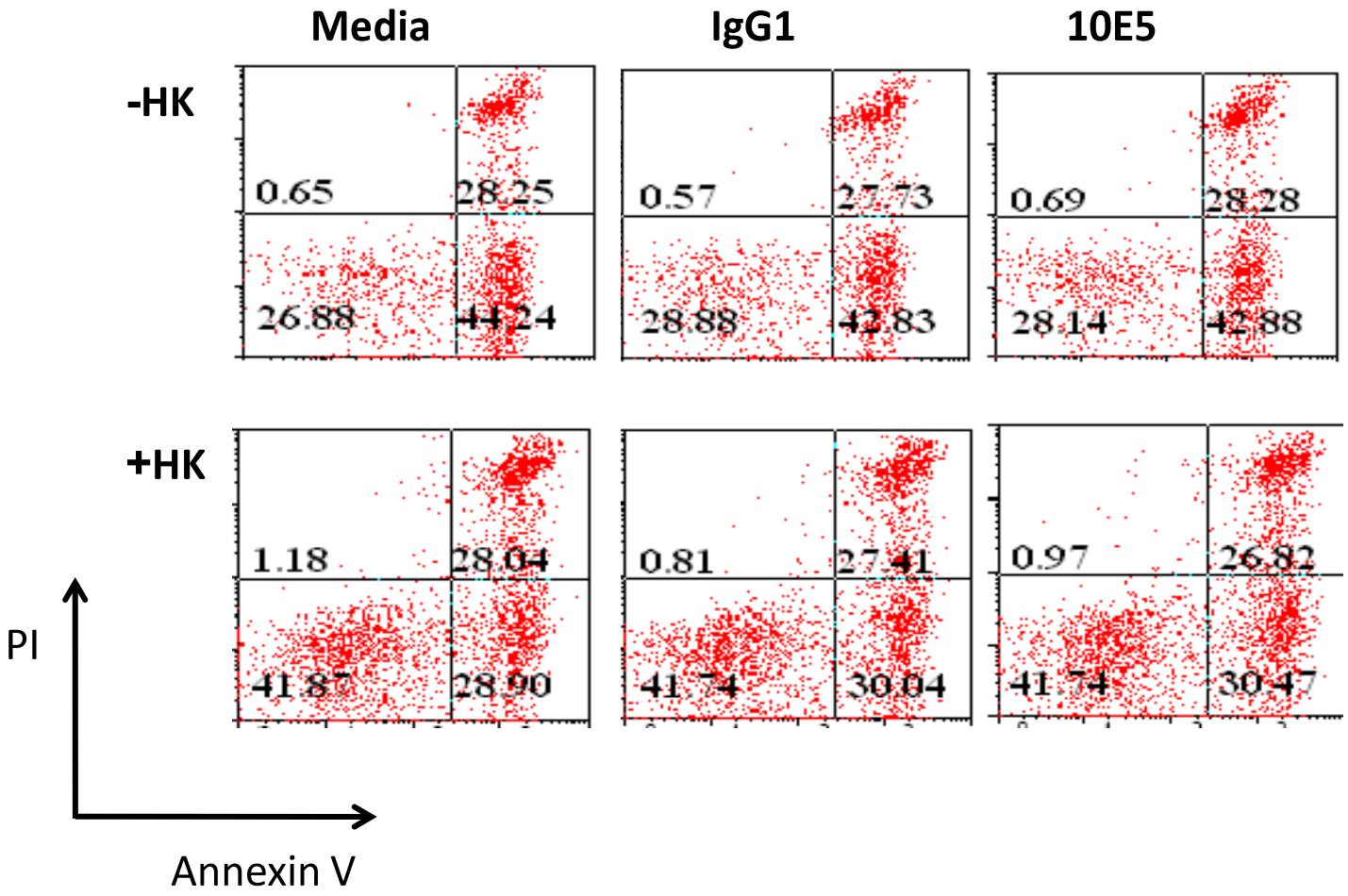
Supplemental Figure 1. Anti-CD9 antibody stains a portion of CD10+ GC-B cells



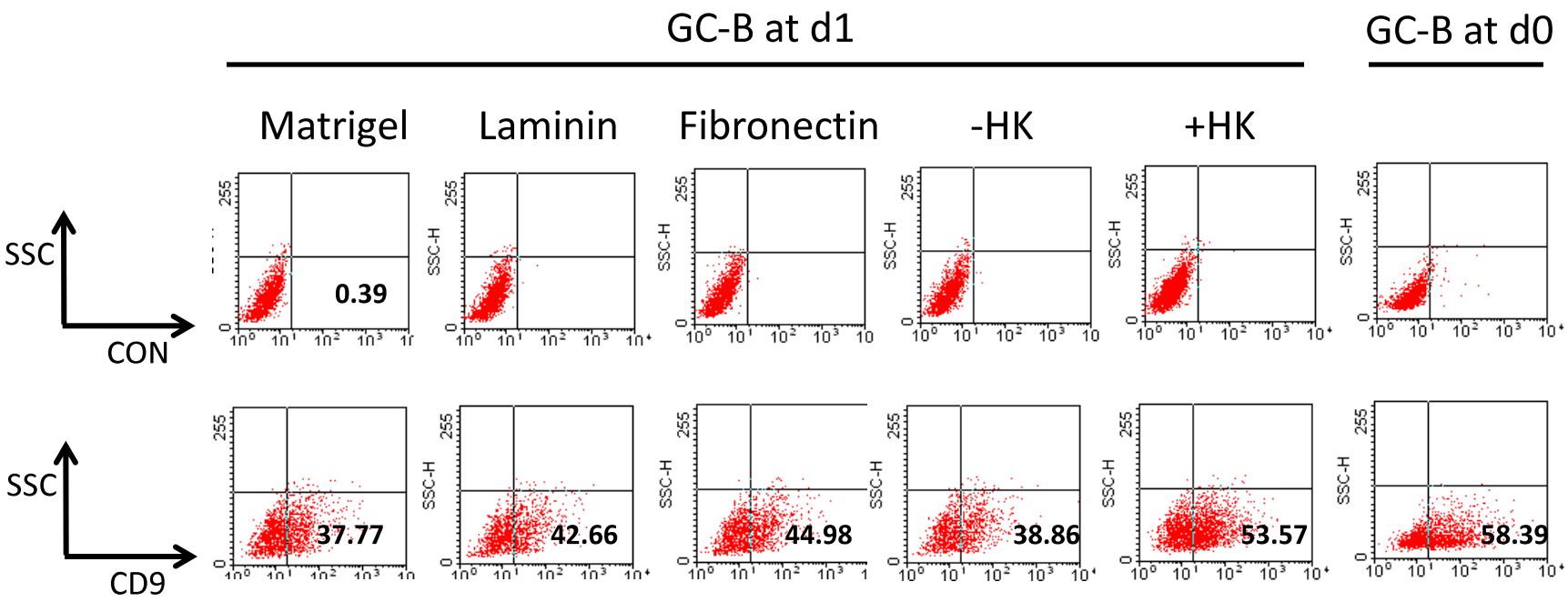
An human tonsillar tissue section was stained with anti-CD9 (green) and anti-CD10 (red) and examined by fluorescent microscopy.

Supplemental Figure 2. Anti-CD9 antibody does not affect GC-B cell survival



GC-B cells were cultured with CD40L in the presence or absence of HK cells for 24 h. To determined the effect of anti-CD9 antibody on survival of GC-B cells, anti-CD9 (clone 10E5) or isotype control antibody was added to the culture in the beginning of the culture and 24hrs later Annexin V-FITC and PI binding were measured by flow cytometry to assess apoptosis.

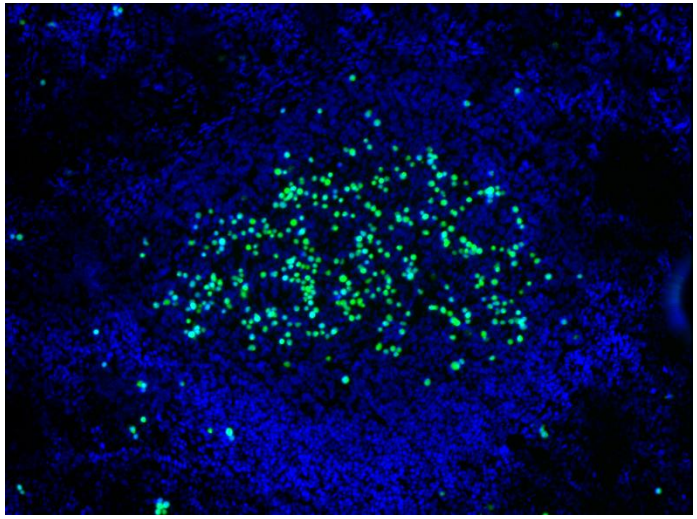
Supplemental Figure 3. ECM cannot rescue CD9+ GC-B cells, unlike FDC/HK cells



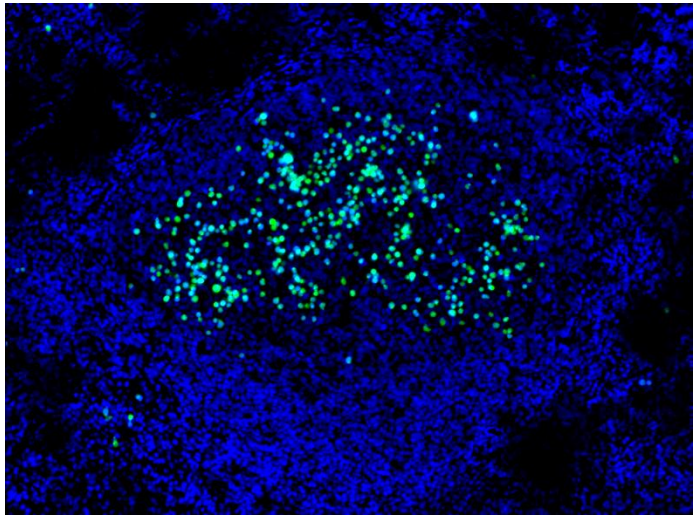
GC-B cells were cultured with CD40L in the presence or absence of HK cells or in the indicated ECM coated plates for 24 h. At the end of the culture, cells were stained with anti-CD9 or isotype control antibody and analyzed by flow cytometry. Percentage of the surviving CD9+ GC-B cells was determined.

Supplemental Figure 4. Anti-CD9 antibody does not affect GC-B cell binding to tonsillar tissue sections

Preincubated with mIgG1



Preincubated with anti-CD9 (10E5)



GC-B cells were internally labeled with Calcein-AM, then pre-incubated with either anti-CD9 antibody (clone 10E5) or isotype control antibody before applying on the tonsillar tissue sections. After applying on the slides, bound cells were fixed and the slides were mounted with anti-fade mounting medium containing DAPI and then examined under a fluorescent microscope.