

1 **Supplemental Figure legends:**

2 **FIGURE S1. Antibody mediated depletion of CD4⁺ T cells in C57BL6/J treated with CCl₄. (A)**

3 Antibody mediated CD4⁺ T cell depletion: days -1, and day 0 mice were administered 0.5mg of anti-
4 CD4 (Clone GK1.5) I.P. and CCl₄ treatment beginning day 0, every three days- 12 doses per animal.
5 On days 14 and 28, animals were administered anti-CD4 I.P. **(B)** Representative FACS plots of
6 antibody mediated CD4 depletion in liver (top) and spleen (bottom) at time of animal sacrifice, blood
7 was monitored throughout the study as indicated in the methods section (data not shown). Data are
8 representative of at least 3 independent experiments with 3-5 animals per indicated group. Gated on
9 live non-autofluorescent CD3⁺ (T cell compartment). **(C)** Mouse livers were processed for liver non-
10 parenchymal cells (NPCs) isolation as described in Materials and Methods. After density gradient
11 enrichment, NPCs were stained with anti-CD45 and analyzed on a FACSAria Cell Sorter II (BD
12 Bioscience) equipped with a UV laser. HSCs were identified as Live, UV autofluorescence-positive
13 (UVAF⁺), CD45 negative population. For the detection of HSC-associated activation marker,
14 purified liver cells were stained intracellularly with α -SMA. The expression of α -SMA was analyzed
15 on gated HSC population using FlowJo software (Treestar, Ashland, OR). Data shown is
16 representative of 3 independent experiments (n=3-5 mice per group). ***p<0.0005, two-tailed Mann-
17 Whitney *U* test. Where applicable, error bars represent SEM.

18

19 **FIGURE S2. CCl₄ treatment primarily alters the hepatic B cell compartment. (A)** Spontaneous

20 IgG production from splenic lymphocytes; ELISPOT was performed as described. **(B)** Comparison of
21 fibrotic liver (795 ± 291 ASC/ 10^6) versus animal-matched splenic (342 ± 137 ASC/ 10^6) frequencies of
22 spontaneous IgG production. All data are representative of three independent experiments, n=3-5
23 animals per group. Statistical significance was determined by two-tailed Mann-Whitney *U* Test,
24 ***p<0.005.

25

26 **FIGURE S3. Increased B cell activation and survival during liver fibrosis.** (A) Phenotypic
27 analysis of live, non-autofluorescent, CD19+ B cells from non-fibrotic (UNTX) and fibrotic (TX)
28 livers; left. Right, analysis of Ki-67 and CD44 expression directly *ex vivo* within the CD95+ IgD-
29 population. Fibrotic liver B cells have an increased frequency of CD95+IgD- B cells in comparison to
30 non-fibrotic controls, far right (**p<0.0005, two-tailed Mann-Whitney *U* Test). Each dot represents
31 one mouse; data shown are from 3 independent experiments, n=3-5 animals per group. (B) Direct *ex*
32 *vivo* analysis of apoptosis via positive staining for Annexin-V and Propidium Iodide (PI) on hepatic
33 CD19+ B cells. Gates were determined from single stained positive and negative controls. FACS
34 plots and graphs are representative of 2 independent experiments, n =3-5 per group (**p<0.0005,
35 two-tailed Mann-Whitney *U* Test).

36

37 **FIGURE S4. CD25 negative CD4+ T cell interaction with B cells is not influenced by fibrosis.**
38 (A) Foxp3 expression on bead-enriched CD4+CD25+ T cells, representative of indicated organs from
39 5 independent experiments (pooled cells from n=3-5 per group). (B) Total CD4+ T cell compartment
40 expression of CD25 and Foxp3 prior to depletion of CD25+ fraction (top), and Foxp3 expression in
41 CD25 negative fraction of CD4+ T cell compartment (bottom) prior to co-culture with B cells. Data
42 representative of 5 independent experiments of pooled organs from n=3-5 animals per group (C) Ki-
43 67 and CD44 co-expression on live, B220+ B cells following 5 days of stimulation with 2 μ g/mL
44 LPS and indicated CD4+ T cells. Total CD4+ T cells from spleen and untreated liver reduce
45 expression of activation markers, while fibrotic liver permits activation (left, top). CD25-depleted
46 fraction permits B cell activation to the same extent irrespective of origin. Statistical significance is
47 relative to B cell activation with LPS in the absence of CD4+ T cells (**p<0.0005, two-tailed
48 Mann-Whitney *U* Test). (D) IgG production from B cells cultured with total CD4+ T cell

49 compartment (top) and CD25-depleted fractions (bottom). All data are representative of at least 5
50 independent experiments with indicated cell populations pooled from n=3-5 animals per group.
51 Statistical significance is relative to B cell activation with LPS in the absence of CD4+ T cells
52 (**p<0.005, *p<0.05, two-tailed Mann-Whitney *U* Test). Where applicable, error bars represent
53 SEM.

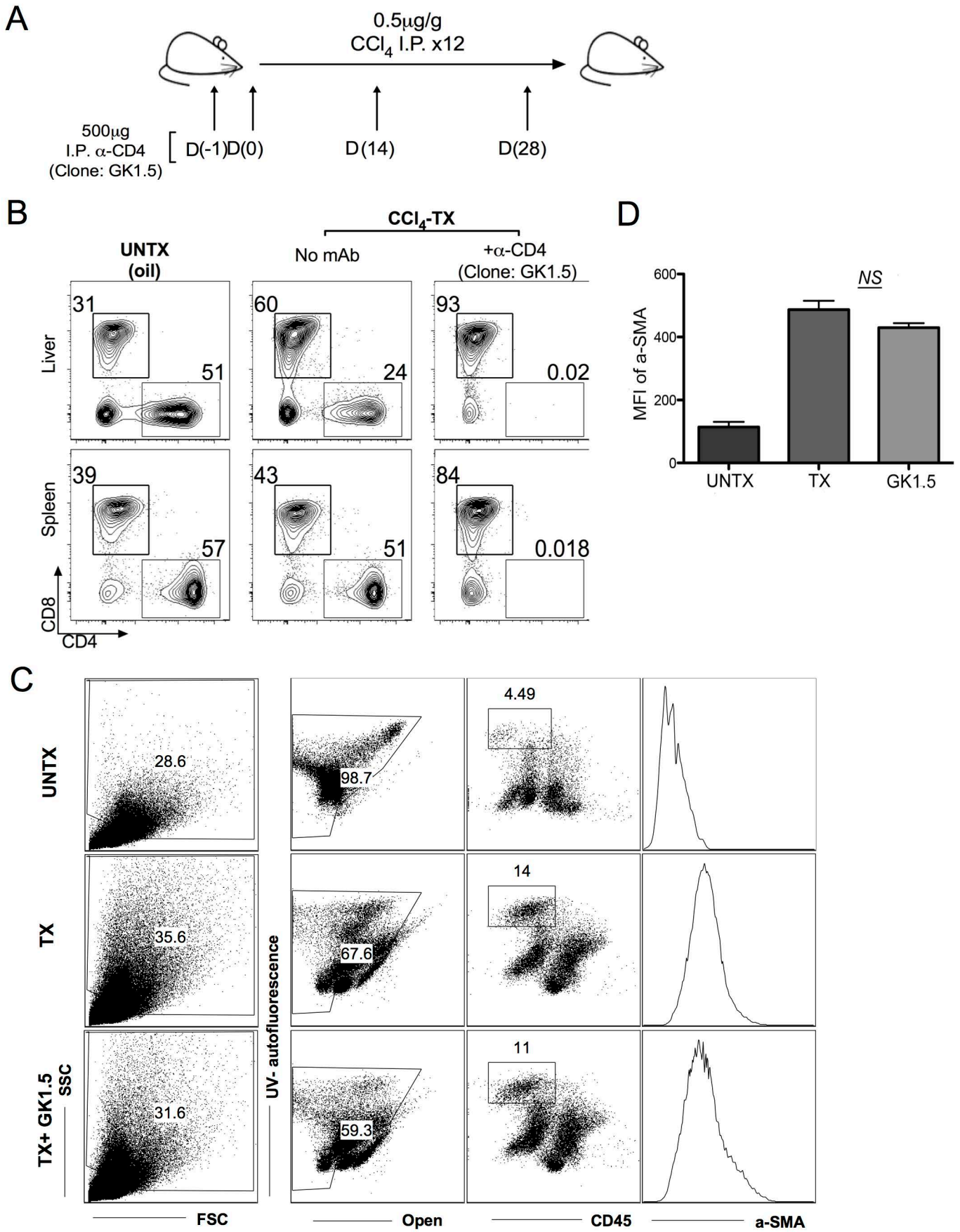
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55 **FIGURE S5. Phenotypic analysis of splenic CD4+Foxp3+ cells.** (A) Representative FACS plots of
56 splenic CD4+ T cell phenotype showing CD69, PD-1 and CD40L expression. Gated on live, non-
57 autofluorescent, CD4+ T cells. (B) Total CD4+ T cell compartment expression of CXCR5 and ICOS;
58 Foxp3+ population represented on top panel, Foxp3- population represented on bottom panel. All
59 data are representative of at least 3 independent experiments (n=3-5 animals per group).

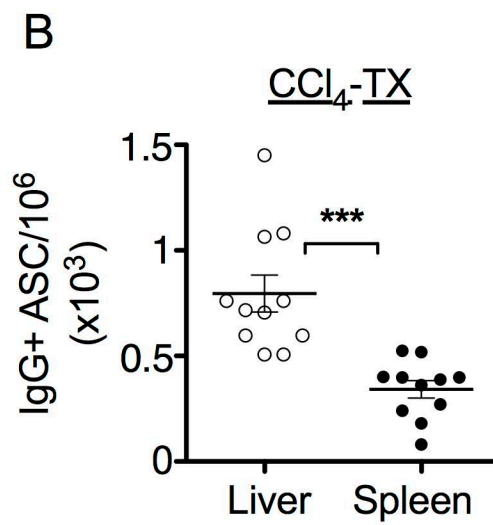
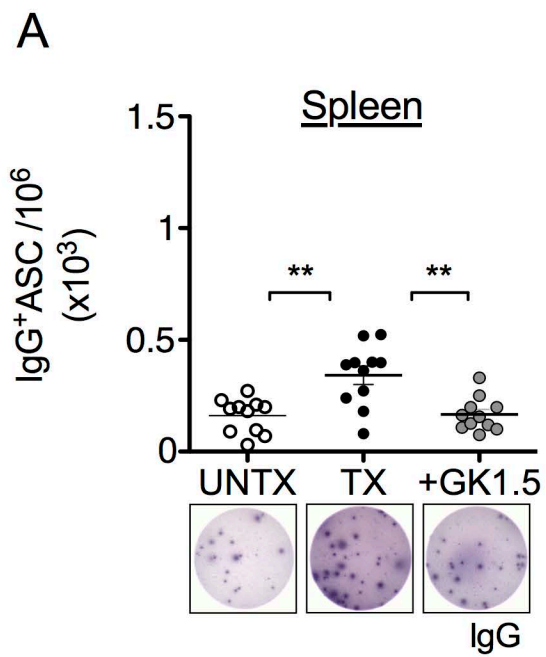
60

61 **FIGURE S6. Intrahepatic accumulation of CD4+Foxp3+ T cells and incidence of spontaneous**
62 **IgG production are independent of HCV viral load.** (A) Intrahepatic frequency of CD4+Foxp3+ T
63 cells does not correlate with patient viremia (n=15), R= -0.18 (Spearman), p=0.52 (two tailed, *NS*).
64 (B) Spontaneous IgG production by intrahepatic B cells does not correlate with patient viremia
65 (n=15), R= -0.06 (Spearman), p=0.82 (two tailed, *NS*).

66

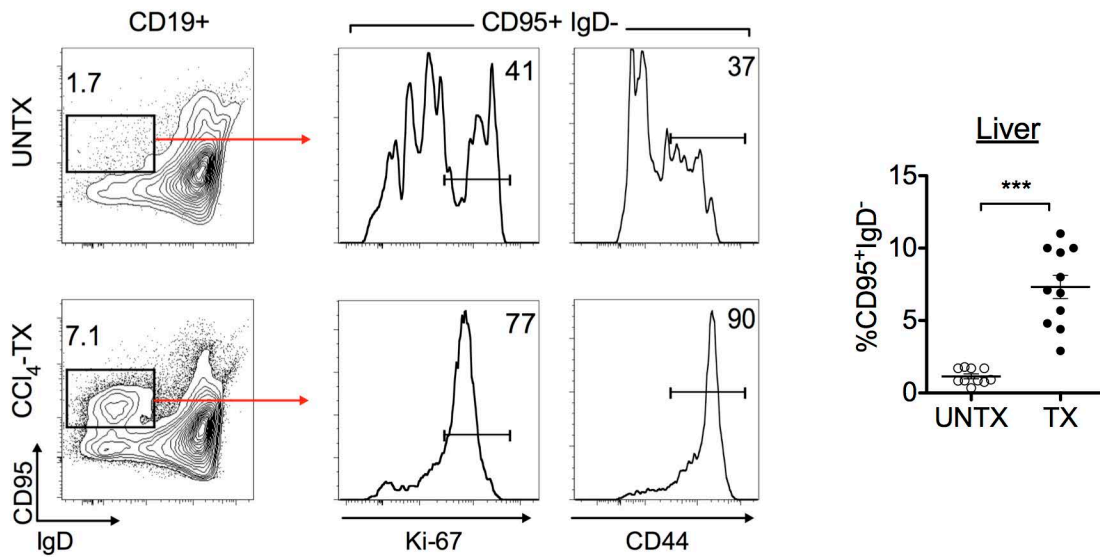


Supplementary Fig. S1

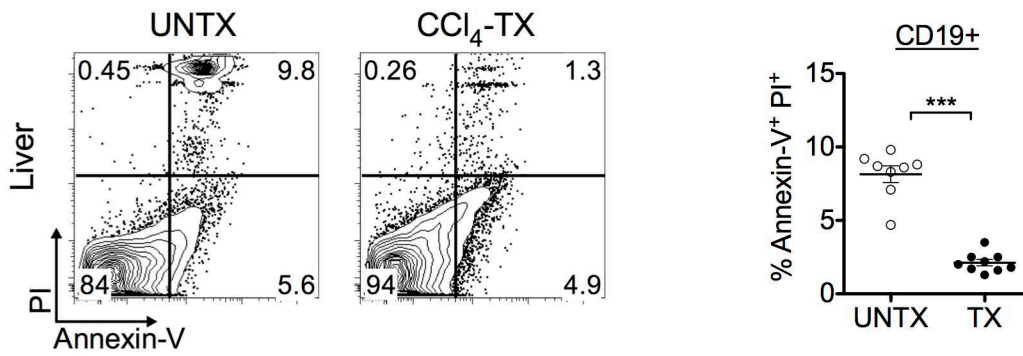


Supplementary Fig. S2.

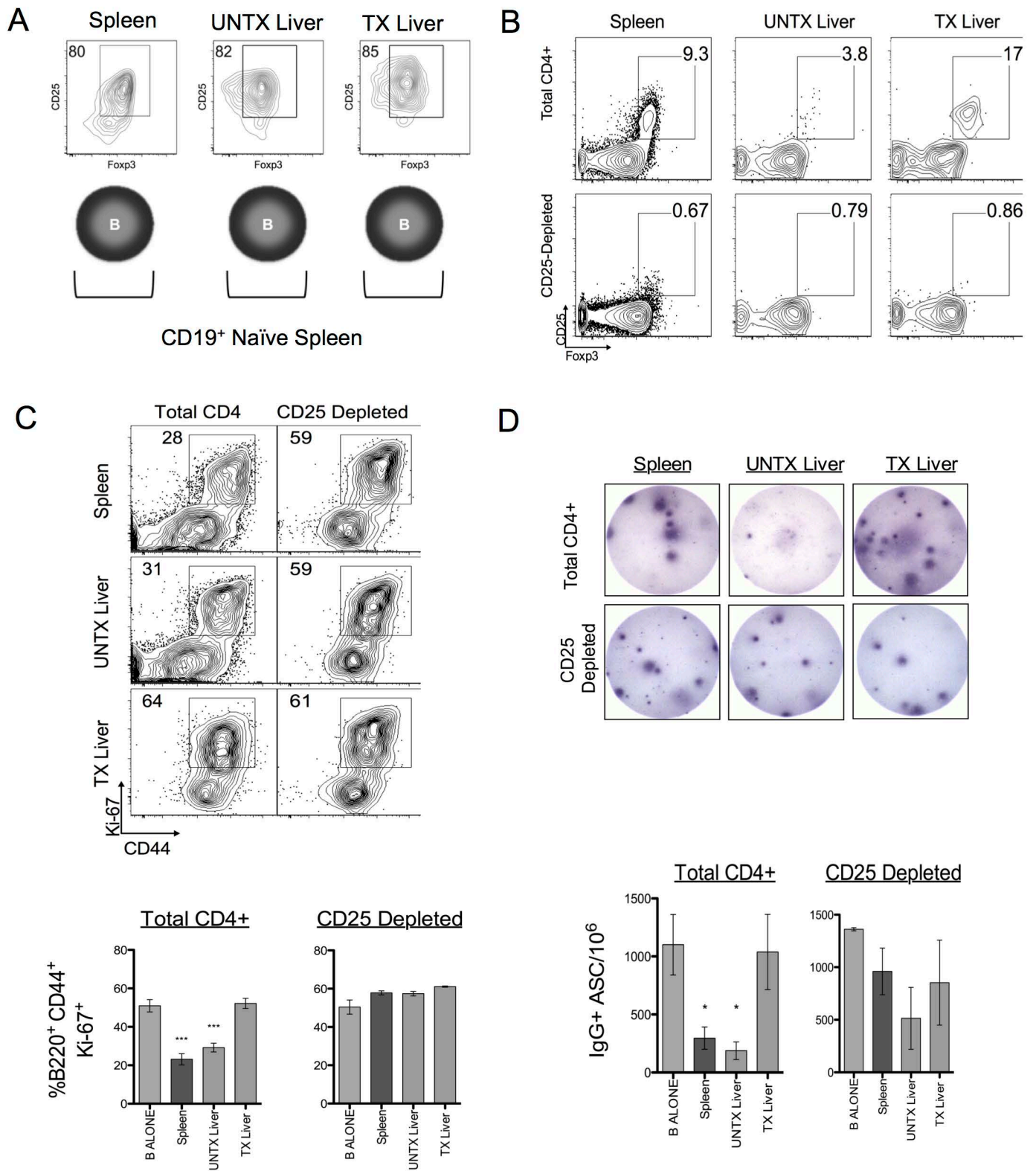
A



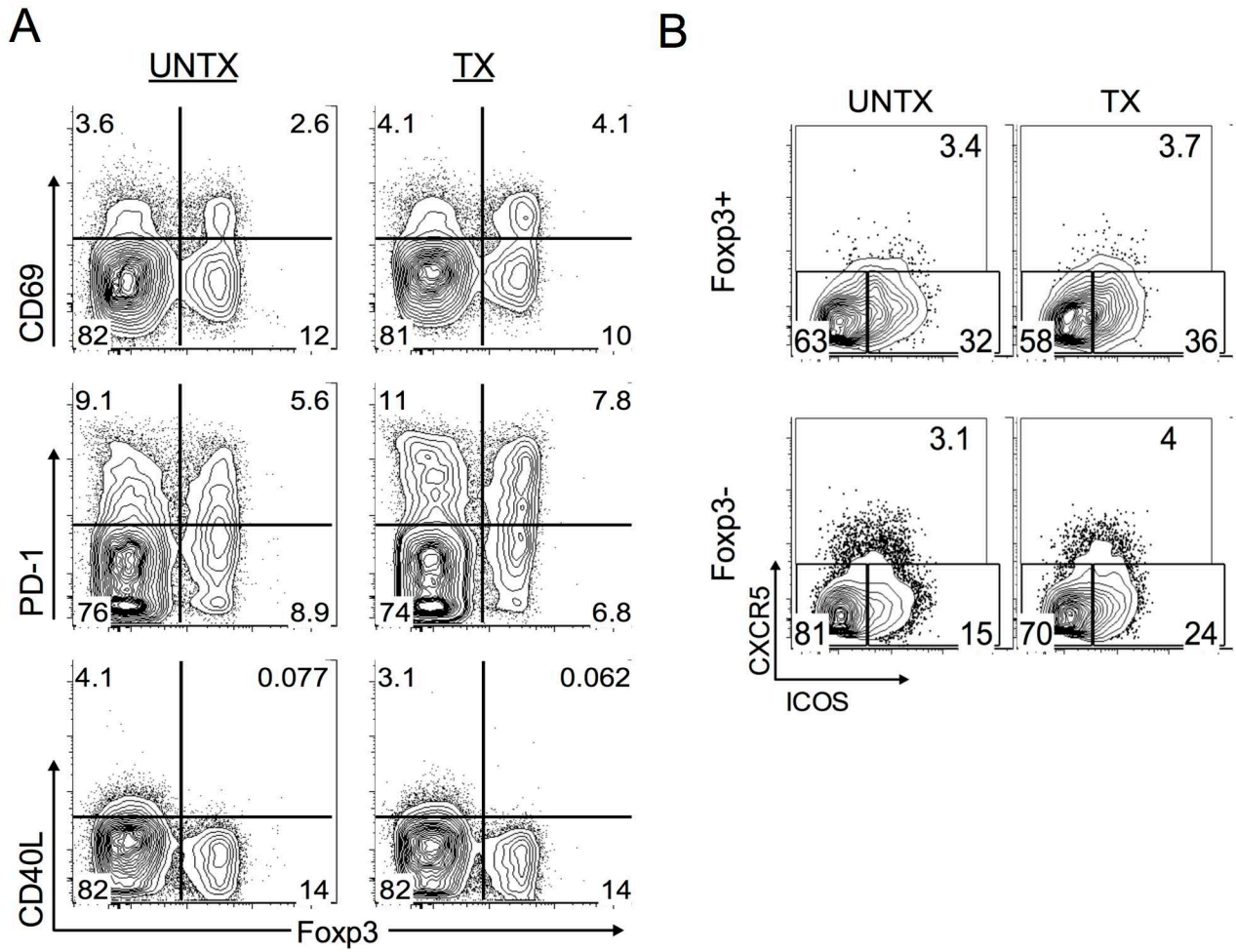
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Supplementary Fig. S3.

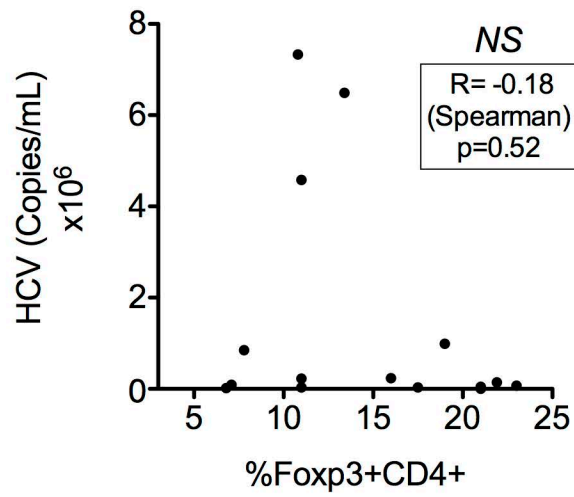


Supplementary Fig. S4.

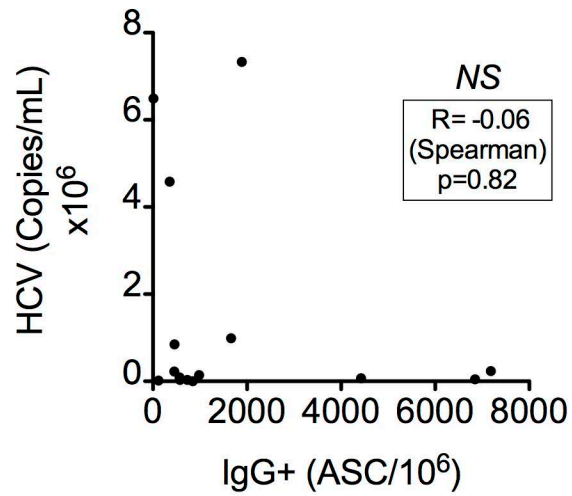


Supplementary Fig. S5.

A



B



Supplementary Fig. S6.

Fibrosis Lesion Scoring (adapted from Ishak, et al. J Hepatology 1995; 22:696-9)

Ishak Stage, Categorical description	Score
No fibrosis	0
Expansion of some portal areas with or without short fibrous septa	1
Expansion of most portal areas with or without short fibrous septa	2
Expansion of most portal areas with occasional portal to portal bridging	3
Expansion of portal areas with marked bridging (portal-portal and/or portal-central)	4
Marked bridging with occasional nodules	5
Cirrhosis, probable or definitive	6

Histopathological Evaluation and Fibrosis Lesion Quantification

Animal ID	Slide ID	H&E	Sirius red-Fibrosis score
Group 1	1 C	NSF*	0
	2 C	NSF	0
	3 C	NSF	0
	4 C	NSF	0
	5 C	NSF	0
Group 2	1 Tx	Multifocal moderate areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3
	2 Tx	Multifocal moderate areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3
	3 Tx	Multifocal extensive areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3
	4 Tx	Multifocal moderate areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3
	5 Tx	Multifocal moderate areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3
Group 3	1 GK+Tx	Multifocal extensive areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3
	2 GK+Tx	Multifocal extensive areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3
	3 GK+Tx	Multifocal moderate areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3
	4 GK+Tx	Multifocal moderate areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3
	5 GK+Tx	Multifocal moderate areas of hepatocellular necrosis, hydropic degeneration, periportal fibrosis with occasional portal to portal bridging and occasional mononuclear to neutrophilic infiltrates	3

* NSF: no significant findings; C: oil-treated control, Tx: CCl₄-treated, and GK+Tx: CCl₄+ GK1.5 antibody treated.

Donor ID	Age	Sex	Cirrhosis	Dx	HCC	HCV RNA (Copies/mL)	ALT
ET101	48	M	YES	HCV	YES	80000	42
ET104	53	M	YES	HCV	YES	7330000	137
ET108	60	M	YES	HCV	YES	233000	45
ET180	63	M	YES	HCV	YES	68700	42
ET196	70	M	YES	HCV	NO	31500	29
ET239	57	M	YES	HCV	YES	3400	27
ET245	47	M	YES	HCV	YES	46900	37
ET261	66	M	YES	HCV	YES	4580000	93
ET262	61	F	YES	HCV	NO	847000	71
ET264	53	F	YES	HCV	NO	225000	30
ET303	67	M	YES	HCV	YES	16300	99
ET308	60	M	YES	HCV	YES	989000	38
ET316	66	F	YES	HCV	YES	44600	26
ET330	50	M	YES	HCV	YES	30400	28
ET334	49	M	YES	HCV	YES	1420000	64
ET371	59	M	YES	HCV	YES	Undet*	30

Supplementary Table 2. Clinical characteristics HCV patients in this study. Explanted cirrhotic liver tissues from HCV infected patients undergoing orthotopic liver transplantation were obtained following informed written consent. Abbreviations: Dx= diagnosis; Undet= undetectable plasma viral load; HCV= hepatitis C virus; HCC= hepatocellular carcinoma; ALT= alanine aminotransferase. Asterisk (*) indicates that donor was treated for HCV infection with PEG-IFNa/Ribavirin course prior to liver transplant.

Donor ID	Age	Sex	Cirrhosis	HCV	HCC	Dx	ALT
ET195	42	M	NO	NEGATIVE	NO	Resection/ Cholangiocarcinoma	35
ET203	42	F	NO	NEGATIVE	NO	Resection/ Hemangioendothelioma	30
ET222	40	M	NO	NEGATIVE	NO	Resection/ Cholangiocarcinoma	45
ET321	24	M	NO	NEGATIVE	NO	Resection/ Negative	32
ET322	Unknown	Unknown	NO	NEGATIVE	NO	Donor liver, resected to accommodate pediatric recipient	Unknown
ET331	47	M	NO	NEGATIVE	NO	Resection/ Negative	38

Supplementary Table 3. Clinical characteristics non-fibrotic control subjects in this study. Liver tissues were obtained following informed written consent from patients undergoing surgical re-sectioning for non-HCV, non-NAFLD, non-ALD related medical treatments or re-sectioned donor liver to accommodate pediatric recipient. Livers were considered non-fibrotic as medical staff did not diagnose cirrhosis in these specimens. Abbreviations: Dx= diagnosis; HCV= hepatitis C virus; HCC= hepatocellular carcinoma; ALT= alanine aminotransferase.