

Supplementary Information for

Viral neutralization by antibody-imposed physical disruption

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Fig. S1. Characterization of HEV VLPs. (*A***)** SDS-PAGE and western blot analysis of the supernatant of insect cell lysates and purified HEV p495 proteins. (*B***)** Negative staining image of purified HEV p495 proteins. The p495 particles assume typical HEV virus-like particles (VLPs). Scale bar is 100 nm. (*C***)** HPSEC profile of purified HEV VLPs.



Fig. S2. Binding and neutralizing efficiencies of anti-HEV nAbs 8C11 and 3B6. (*A***)** Reactivity of nAbs with E2 protein, as tested by ELISA. The EC50 was calculated using sigmoid trend fitting. (*B***)** Neutralizing efficiency of nAbs, as tested using a HepG2 cell-infection model. The IC50 was calculated by sigmoid trend fitting.



Fig. S3. Sedimentation velocity test of the VLP:8C11 complex. HEV VLPs, Fab 8C11 and VLP:8C11 complex (harvested from the extra peak in question) were subjected to SV tests. c(S) profiles show that the species of the extra peak in question in Figure 1c possesses a sedimentation coefficient (S) larger than 8C11 but much smaller than HEV VLPs.



Fig. S4. The dissociation potential of intact antibody of 8C11 observed by negative staining TEM. (A) HEV VLPs as control; (B and C) Dissociation of VLPs can be observed when incubating with both intact antibody of 8C11 (B) or Fab (C). (D and E) Neither intact antibody of 3B6 (D) nor its Fab fragment (E) was capable to dissociate VLPs.



Fig. S5. FSC curves of the 3D reconstructions of HEV VLPs (A), VPL:8C11 (B) and VLP:3B6 (C). Gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) of reconstructions were plotted against spatial frequency. The resolutions of the three reconstructions were 3.4 Å, 3.6 Å and 7.2 Å, respectively.



Fig. S6. Structural comparison of p495 monomers from cryo-EM and crystal structures. (*A* and *B*) p495 models built according to cryo-EM density maps of VLP (*A*) and VLP:8C11 (*B*) respectively. P, M, and S domains of p495 are colored in green, orange and magenta, respectively. The models of P domain and 8C11 Fab are not buildable for VLP:8C11 due to little interpretable density. (*C*) p495 model of VLP cryo-EM structure is similar to known crystal structure (PDB No. 2ZZQ, an RMSD of 0.90 Å for all aligned Ca atoms). (*D*) the models of M and S domains for VLP and VLP:8C11 are quite similar (RMSD=0.29 Å).



Fig. S7. Cryo-EM reconstruction of the VLP:8C11 complex in asymmetric manner. (A-C), Iso-contoured views (colored radially) of cryo-EM maps are displayed at three different contour levels: σ = 3.0 (A), σ = 4.0 (B) and σ = 5.0 (C). (D) the icosahedral inner shell is conspicuous even under the C1 reconstruction without any symmetry.

| | HEV-VLP | VLP:8C11 (15 min) | VLP:8C11 (30 min) | VLP:8C11 (60 min) | VLP:8C11 (2 h) |
|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| No. of cryo-EM images | 468 | 227 | 105 | 189 | 122 |
| No. of selected particles | 14,269 | 10,277 | 2308 | 893 | 289 |
| Average particles per image | 30 | 45 | 22 | 5 | 2 |

Table S1. Statistics of particles selected from VLP:8C11 complexes incubated at different times

Table S2. Statistics of 3D reconstruction and model refinement

| | HEV-VLP | HEV: 8C11 | HEV: 3B6 | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--|
| Data Collection | | | | |
| EM equipment | | Tecnai F30 | | |
| Voltage (kV) | | 300 | | |
| Pixel size (Å) | | 1.128 | | |
| Electron dose (e ⁻ /Å ²) | | 25 | | |
| Detector | | Falcon II | | |
| Defocus range (µm) | 0.9 - 2.8 | 0.8 - 3.6 | 1.1 - 3.7 | |
| Reconstruction | | | | |
| Software | | Relion 1.4 | | |
| Number of used Particles | 13,759 | 4,259 | 1,029 | |
| Final Resolution (Å) | 3.4 | 3.6 | 7.2 | |
| Map sharpening B-factor (Å ²) | -188.71 | -173.56 | -150.00 | |
| Model building | | | | |
| Software | Coot | Coot | / | |
| Refinement | | | | |
| Software | Phenix | Phenix | 1 | |
| Model statistics | | | | |
| Correlation coefficient (around atoms) | 0.85 | 0.87 | / | |
| No. of atoms of protein | 3,484 | 2,469 | / | |
| Ramachandran outliers | 0.00% | 0.00% | 1 | |
| Ramachandran favored | 92.04% | 93.48% | 1 | |
| Rotamer outliers | 0.79% | 0.00% | 1 | |
| C-beta deviations | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Clash score | 4.04 | 3.87 | / | |
| RMS(bonds) | 0.0118 | 0.0068 | / | |
| RMS(angles) | 1.38 | 1.13 | / | |