

M.B.2152 THE HUMORAL RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC ANTIGEN FROM M.TUBERCULOSIS
IN AIDS PATIENTS

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To test whether antibodies (IgG) to specie specific glycolipid (SL-IV) from M. tuberculosis are formed in HIV infection, we investigated by ELISA sera from 86 patients with pulmonary tuberculosis (18 had AIDS by CDC criteria; 24 were HIV+ without AIDS and 44 were HIV-) and 104 non-tuberculous controls (19 had AIDS; 40 were HIV+ and 45 were healthy persons). Throughout the spectrum of the immunosuppression caused by HIV, the antibody production decrease from HIV- tuberculous patients to AIDS/tuberculous patients. No antibodies to SL-IV were found in all of the AIDS patients with pulmonary tuberculosis. On the other hand, high positivity (32.5%) was found among the HIV+ group without tuberculosis. The prevalence of tuberculosis is very high in Brazil and the disease has been diagnosed in 21% of all AIDS cases. Then, this "false-positive" result (32.5%) in the HIV+ group may signify an early diagnosis of tuberculosis. The group is been follow up in order to establish the predictive value of the ELISA using SL-IV antigen.

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