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Objectives :

Determination of the susceptibility of brazilian HIV-1 isolates to neutralization by brazilian sera.

Methods :

The neutralization assay in PHA activated PBMC (Albert et al. AIDS 4:107, 1990) evaluated with the DuPont HIV antigen assay was used. Neutralization titre was defined as the reciprocal of the highest dilution without antigen detection.

Results :

The TCID50 of brazilian HIV-1 isolates (CDC stages II, III, IV, Rio de Janeiro, RJ) was measured, with results varying from 75 to 6250. Isolates with titres above 100 were selected for evaluation of their susceptibility towards autologous and heterologous neutralization. None of 6 isolates tested were neutralized by their autologous sera, while heterologous neutralization varied. All isolates were neutralized by the control pool of brazilian plasma.

Discussion and Conclusions :

Autologous HIV-1 neutralization in Brazil appears to be as rare as in other countries, indicating that vaccines capable of inducing HIV-1 neutralizing antibodies would be indicated also in Brazil.