The landscape of MHC-presented phosphopeptides yields actionable shared tumor antigens for cancer immunotherapy across multiple HLA alleles

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DECLARATIONS

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Written informed consent was received from participants prior to inclusion in the study. Use of

human blood samples was approved by MSKCC IRB protocol #06-107.

Consent for publication

All donors provided consent for publication of de-identified data in this study where applicable.

Availability of data and material

Original datasets (mass spectrometry search results, flow cytometry data, docking results) will be

made available by the authors upon reasonable request to the corresponding author (Zaki Molvi,

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Competing interests

DAS is on a board of, or has equity in, or income from: Lantheus, Sellas, Iovance, Pfizer,

Actinium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., OncoPep, Repertoire, Sapience, and Eureka Therapeutics. TD is

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Authors' Contributions

All authors made substantial contributions to the study. ZM conceived and designed the study,

developed methodology, acquired data, analyzed and interpreted data, and wrote the original

draft of the manuscript. MGK and TD developed methodology, acquired data, and analyzed and

interpreted data. JU acquired data. ZM, MGK, TD, JU, DAS, and RJO reviewed and revised the

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MHC: major histocompatibility complex

HLA: human leukocyte antigen

MS: mass spectrometry

HLA-IP: HLA immunoprecipitation

LC-MS/MS: liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry

CHAPS: 3-([3-cholamidopropyl] dimethylammonio)-1-propanesulfonate

ACN: acetonitrile

TFA: trifluoroacetic acid

EBV-BLCL: Epstein-Barr virus transformed B lymphoblastoid cell line

EBV-LPD: Epstein-Barr virus-associated B lymphoproliferative disease

AML: acute myeloid leukemia

B-ALL: B cell acute lymphoid leukemia

MCL: mantle cell lymphoma

TIL: tumor infiltrating lymphocytes

PP-CTL: phosphopeptide-specific T cells

PBMC: peripheral blood mononuclear cells

VDW: van der Waals

DDA: data-dependent acquisition

ABSTRACT

Background

Certain phosphorylated peptides are differentially presented by MHC molecules on cancer cells

characterized by aberrant phosphorylation. Phosphopeptides presented in complex with the

human leukocyte antigen HLA-A*02:01 provide a stability advantage over their

nonphosphorylated counterparts. This stability is thought to contribute to enhanced

immunogenicity. Whether tumor-associated phosphopeptides presented by other common alleles

exhibit immunogenicity and structural characteristics similar to those presented by A*02:01 is

unclear. Therefore, we determined the identity, structural features, and immunogenicity of

phosphopeptides presented by the prevalent alleles HLA-A*03:01, -A*11:01, -C*07:01, and -

C*07:02.

Methods

We isolated peptide-MHC complexes by immunoprecipitation from 10 healthy and neoplastic

tissue samples using mass spectrometry, and then combined the resulting data with public

immunopeptidomics datasets to assemble a curated set of phosphopeptides presented by 20

distinct healthy and neoplastic tissue types. We determined the biochemical features of selected

phosphopeptides by in vitro binding assays and in silico docking, and their immunogenicity by

analyzing healthy donor T cells for phosphopeptide-specific multimer binding and cytokine

production.

Results

We identified a subset of phosphopeptides presented by HLA-A*03:01, A*11:01, C*07:01 and

C*07:02 on multiple tumor types, particularly lymphomas and leukemias, but not healthy tissues.

These phosphopeptides are products of genes essential to lymphoma and leukemia survival. The

presented phosphopeptides generally exhibited similar or worse binding to A*03:01 than their

nonphosphorylated counterparts. HLA-C*07:01 generally presented phosphopeptides but not

their unmodified counterparts. Phosphopeptide binding to HLA-C*07:01 was dependent on B-

pocket interactions that were absent in HLA-C*07:02. While HLA-A*02:01 and -A*11:01

phosphopeptide-specific T cells could be readily detected in an autologous setting even when the

nonphosphorylated peptide was co-presented, HLA-A*03:01 or -C*07:01 phosphopeptides were

repeatedly nonimmunogenic, requiring use of allogeneic T cells to induce phosphopeptide-

specific T cells.

Conclusions

Phosphopeptides presented by multiple alleles that are differentially expressed on tumors constitute tumor-specific antigens that could be targeted for cancer immunotherapy, but the immunogenicity of such phosphopeptides is not a general feature. In particular, phosphopeptides presented by HLA-A*02:01 and A*11:01 exhibit consistent immunogenicity, while phosphopeptides presented by HLA-A*03:01 and C*07:01, although appropriately presented, are not immunogenic. Thus, to address an expanded patient population, phosphopeptide-targeted immunotherapies should be wary of allele-specific differences.

- **What is already known on this topic** – Phosphorylated peptides presented by the common HLA alleles A*02:01 and B*07:02 are differentially expressed by multiple tumor types, exhibit structural fitness due to phosphorylation, and are targets of healthy donor T cell surveillance, but it is not clear, however, whether such features apply to phosphopeptides presented by other common HLA alleles.

- **What this study adds** – We investigated the tumor presentation, binding, structural features, and immunogenicity of phosphopeptides to the prevalent alleles A*03:01, A*11:01, C*07:01, and C*07:02, selected on the basis of their presentation by malignant cells but not normal cells. We found tumor antigens derived from genetic dependencies in lymphomas and leukemias that bind HLA-A3, -A11, -C7 molecules. While we could detect circulating T cell responses in healthy individuals to A*02:01 and A*11:01 phosphopeptides, we did not find such responses to A*03:01 or C*07:01 phosphopeptides, except when utilizing allogeneic donor T cells, indicating that these

phosphopeptides may not be immunogenic in an autologous setting but can still be

targeted by other means.

• **How this study might affect research, practice or policy** – An expanded patient

population expressing alleles other than A*02:01 can be addressed through the

development of immunotherapies specific for phosphopeptides profiled in the present

work, provided the nuances we describe between alleles are taken into consideration.

BACKGROUND

T cells recognizing tumor-selective antigens presented in the context of MHC are capable of

inducing durable regressions of cancers refractory to standard treatment when adoptively

transferred into patients. Adequate selection of antigen targets is critical to induce remission and

prevent relapse. Neoantigens produced by nonsynonymous somatic mutations represent a tumor-

exclusive class of antigens but are typically private to each patient and more likely to be present

when tumor mutational burden is sufficiently high. Differentially expressed tumor-associated

antigens, such as WT1, Survivin, PRAME, and NYESO1 have been safely targeted to treat a

variety of pediatric and hematologic tumors[1–3], which generally harbor too few mutations to

produce adequate neoantigens. A significant pitfall in antigen selection is insufficient peptide

presentation in that tumor antigen epitopes that are found to be immunogenic are not necessarily

endogenously presented by tumors. Advances in mass spectrometry (MS) solve this problem by

enabling direct sequencing of the immunopeptidome by identifying peptides eluted from HLA

immunoprecipitates (HLA-IP)[4]. HLA-IP followed by MS of cell lines and primary samples has

enabled identification of post-translationally modified peptides, such as phosphopeptides[5] and

glycopeptides[6] as an emerging class of tumor antigens.

Several phosphopeptides have been shown to be presented by certain HLA class I and II

alleles that exhibit enhanced immunogenicity, a feature hypothesized to be due to unique

structural features[7–9]. Interestingly, Cobbold et al. have shown that while healthy donors

harbor T cell responses specific to these phosphopeptides, leukemic patients lack such

responses[10]. Moreover, these responses are restored post-allogeneic stem cell transplant.

Colorectal cancer patients have also been found to harbor TILs that recognize phosphopeptides,

as well as peripheral T cells that recognize phosphopeptides at higher frequencies than healthy

donors[11], closely mimicking studies of neoantigens produced by somatic mutations[12,13].

We sought to expand the known landscape of phosphopeptides presented by prevalent

HLA molecules that could be useful as immunotherapy targets. We applied HLA-IP to 10

hematologic cell line samples. We then combined our data with public immunopeptidomics

datasets to assemble an expanded dataset of phosphopeptides not presented by normal tissues.

From this dataset, we selected phosphopeptides of interest presented by HLA-A*03:01, -

A*11:01, and -C*07:01 and studied their binding stability in vitro, in silico structural properties,

and ability to stimulate T cells, to identify candidates for future immunotherapeutic treatment

strategies.

METHODS

Cells

T2 cells, EBV-transformed B cells (EBV-BLCL), and monoclonal EBV-associated lymphoma

cells (EBV-LPD) emerging post-marrow allograft were maintained in RPMI+10% FBS,

supplemented 2 mM L-Glutamine, and penicillin-streptomycin. T2 cells expressing HLA alleles

were generated as follows: HLA-A0301, HLA-C0701, and HLA-C0702 encoding cDNA (IDT)

were inserted into pSBbi-GP[14] (Addgene plasmid # 60511) using the NEBbuilder HiFi

Assembly Master Mix. Successful ligation was confirmed by Sanger sequencing of DH5a (NEB)

colonies transformed with the ligation reaction. Stable transfection was performed by

transfecting T2 cells with 4.5ug of HLA cDNA in the pSBbi-GP backbone and 0.5ug of

pCMV(CAT)T7-SB100[15] (Addgene plasmid # 34879), followed by puromycin selection.

HLA ligand identification

HLA ligands were isolated and identified using immunoprecipitation and liquid chromatography-

tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) as described previously[16]. Approximately $1\text{-}2x10^8$

cells were washed in PBS, snap-frozen, and stored at -80C. Pellets were thawed on ice and lysed

in 1% 3-([3-cholamidopropyl] dimethylammonio)-1-propanesulfonate (CHAPS) in PBS

supplemented with Roche cOmplete protease inhibitor cocktail and Roche PhosSTOP for 1 hour

at 4C. Lysates were cleared by centrifugation. Supernatants were circulated over W6/32-

conjugated sepharose columns for MHC class I isolation and either L243- or IVA12-conjugated

sepharose columns for MHC class II isolation using a peristaltic pump overnight at 4C. Peptide-

HLA complexes were eluted from dried columns in 1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA). Peptide-HLA

complexes were adsorbed onto Sep-Pak tC18 columns (Waters) pre-equilibrated with 80%

acetonitrile (ACN). Peptides were eluted in 40% ACN 0.1% TFA or 30% ACN 0.1% TFA.

Solid-phase extraction of peptide eluates was performed using in-house C18 minicolumns

(Empore) washed with 80% ACN/0.1% TFA and pre-equilibrated with 1% TFA. Peptide eluates

were run through the C18 minicolumn, which was subsequently washed twice with 1% TFA, and

desalted peptides were eluted with 80% ACN/0.1% TFA. Samples were analyzed using a Lumos

Fusion operated in data-dependent acquisition (DDA) mode. Peptides were separated using a

12cm built-in-emitter column using a 70min gradient (2-30%B, B: 80% ACN/0.1% Formic

acid). 3uL of 8uL were injected. 3+ & 4+ (and undetermined charge states) peptides were

allowed in the mass range: m/z 250-700. 2+ peptides were selected in the mass range m/z 350-

1000 while 1+ peptides were selected in the range: m/z 750-1800.

T2 stabilization

T2 cells expressing the indicated HLA molecule were harvested from culture and incubated for

18h at room temperature. Cells were subsequently washed with PBS and resuspended in serum-

free RPMI with 3ug/mL Beta-2-microglobulin (MP Biomedicals) and the indicated concentration

of peptide for 3 hours at room temperature followed by 3 hours at 37C in 5% CO_2. Cells were

washed, stained for 30 minutes at 4°C with FVD Violet (1:1000), HLA-A2 PE (BD, 1:100), and

HLA-A3 PE-Vio770 (Miltenyi, 1:100) or HLA-C AF647 (BioLegend, 1:100). Stained cells were

washed twice and acquired on a BD LSRII.

Molecular docking

Peptide docking to HLA molecules was performed as described previously[17]. Solved crystal

structures of peptide-HLA complexes were retrieved from the PDB and used as template

structures. PDB entry 5VGE was used to dock 9-mers to HLA-C0702, and 3RL1 and 3RL2 were

used for docking 9- and 10-mers, respectively, to HLA-A0301. To generate a template for HLA-

C0701, UCSF Chimera[18] was used to incorporate the K66N and S99Y mutations that

distinguish C0701 from C0702. Peptides of interest were threaded onto the template by mutating

the peptide using the Dunbrack and SwissSideChain rotamer libraries[19,20] implemented in

UCSF Chimera. Structures were prepacked and docked using the FlexPepDock protocol in

refinement mode in Rosetta3[21,22]. For each distinct peptide-HLA complex, each complex was

scored in Rosetta energy units (REU) using the Rosetta3 full-atom score function ref2015, and

the top 10 lowest REU models were selected among 200 high-resolution models. UCSF Chimera

was used to visualize models and analyze hydrogen bonds.

Immunogenicity assessment

Phosphopeptides were assessed for their immunogenicity by ELISpot analysis or multimer staining of sensitized HLA-typed donor PBMC. PBMC were sensitized to phosphopeptides selected for each donor's HLA typing using a method described previously[4]. For dendritic cell (DC) priming, the method of Wölfl & Greenberg[23] was used. In some cases, autologous peptide-pulsed CD14+ cells or T2 cells expressing the relevant HLA allele, were used instead of DC. On day 10-13 after initial sensitization or priming, cells were restimulated with peptide-pulsed, lethally irradiated autologous PBMC, autologous DC, or T2 cells and thereafter maintained in media containing IL7/15 at 5ng/mL and IL2 (Miltenyi) at 50 IU/mL. All cultures were maintained in Xvivo-15 media(Lonza)+5% human AB serum(Gemini). Cells were typically analyzed on day 10-13 of each stimulation cycle via multimer staining or ELISPOT against autologous peptide-pulsed targets as described previously[24–26].

Dextramers were assembled according to our protocol[27], based on a previous method[28]. For dextramer enrichment from PBMC, $1\text{-}3\text{x}10^8$ PBMC were incubated in 50nM dasatinib and FcR block for 30 minutes at 37C, then incubated with 10ug/mL of the indicated dextramer pool for 1 hour at 4C, and enriched with anti-Cy5, -PE, or -Cy7 beads (Miltenyi) sequentially over 2 LS columns (Miltenyi). Enriched cells were either stained for surface markers and analyzed by flow cytometry or expanded in 96-well plates with irradiated allogeneic feeders and anti-CD3/28 reagent (STEMCELL) in the presence of IL2 300IU/mL, IL7 5ng/mL, and IL15 5ng/mL for 10-14 days until subsequent analysis or further enrichment and re-expansion. When dextramer-enriched samples were acquired by flow cytometry, the entire sample volume was acquired.

Data analysis and statistics

Flow cytometry data was analyzed in FCS Express (De Novo Software). All other data were

analyzed using custom Python and R scripts. All statistical analyses presented used a paired t-

test. For genetic dependency analysis, data were downloaded from DepMap

portal[29](www.depmap.org/). For each group of cell lines, DEMETER2 scores were averaged

for each gene using a custom Python script. Gene ontology (GO) analysis was performed using

STRING(www.string-db.org). Peptide predictions were performed using NetMHCpan4.0.

Peptide motif analysis was performed using GibbsCluster-2.0. MS data from previous

studies[4,30–32] were obtained on ProteomeXchange (accession nos: PXD004746, PXD005704,

PXD012083, PXD013831).

RESULTS

Identification of immunogenic phosphopeptides presented in the malignant state.

We attempted to elucidate the phosphopeptidome for common HLA alleles other than A*02:01

to define tumor antigens presented by malignant cells, but not by normal tissue. Because of the

documented presentation of phosphopeptides on EBV-BLCL, we used HLA class I and II-based

immunoprecipitation and LC-MS/MS to isolate HLA ligands from 6 EBV-BLCL lines as well as

2 AML lines treated with either decitabine to enhance antigen presentation or DMSO, 1 EBV-

LPD line, and 1 healthy B cell sample. By restricting the resultant peptide identifications to ≥8-

mer peptides filtered by a stringent FDR of 1% and DeltaMod ≥20 in the Byonic

environment[33], we recovered 40,557 unique non-phosphopeptides and 255 unique

phosphopeptides across all samples. HLA class I peptidomes contained 214 unique

phosphopeptides derived from 194 human proteins, whereas class II peptidomes contained 53

unique phosphopeptides derived from 37 proteins. EBV-transformed samples, such as EBV-

BLCL and EBV-LPD, were the top-ranking samples when comparing samples by counts of

unique unmodified peptides and phosphopeptides in our dataset (Fig. 1A). HLA class I and II

phosphopeptides were most frequently 9-mers and 16-mers (Fig. 1B), respectively, in agreement

with previous studies[8,32]. To elucidate the differences in phosphopeptidome of B cells in the

malignant vs. healthy state in an autologous setting, we examined class I peptides and

phosphopeptides eluted from equal numbers of EBV-BLCL and healthy B cells from the same

donor (donor AP). When constrained to peptides with a NetMHCpan4-predicted percentile rank

$\leq$2% for each donor-expressed allele, high affinity peptides were more numerous for the HLA-

A*11:01 allele than other allotypes present in Donor AP, with the majority of A*11:01-predicted

peptides under the common 500nM cut off (dashed lines in Fig. 1C). We found more than twice

the number of predicted high affinity peptides presented by donor AP's EBV-BLCL compared to

their autologous healthy B cells (5,789 vs. 2,142 peptides; Fig. 1C). Moreover, phosphopeptides,

demarcated by grey circles in fig. 1C, were presented in higher numbers by each allele in EBV-

BLCL compared to autologous healthy B cells (enumerated in fig. 1D). On the basis of their

amino acid sequences excluding phosphorylation, most of these phosphopeptides were assigned

to HLA-A*11:01 by NetMHCpan4.0. By analyzing the overlaps in phosphopeptidomes of all 6

HLA-A*11:01+ samples in our dataset (Fig. 1E), we found previously undescribed

phosphopeptides pGTF3C2, pPPP1R12A, pPIM1, pMYBBP1A, and pSRRM1 were presented

by multiple EBV-BLCL and EBV-LPD, but not healthy B cells. Since some phosphopeptides

have been shown to be immunogenic in A2+ donors[10,17,34], we sought to determine if A11+

donors also harbor phosphopeptide-specific T cells. We selected phosphopeptides and normal

peptides presented by donor AP's EBV-BLCL, and found that only pGTF3C2 elicited peptide-

specific IFNg production by sensitized T cells from this donor (Fig. 1F). Similar to previous

reports, the unmodified peptide, GTF3C2wt, did not induce specific T cells. These results were

corroborated by tetramer staining of donor AP's PBMC after a single stimulation with pGTF3C2

(Fig. 1G). To explain the difference in immunogenicity, we used a molecular docking approach

that we previously applied to explain the specificity of a TCR-mimicking antibody recognizing

the A2/pIRS2 phosphopeptide[17]. We docked pGTF3C2 and GTF3C2wt to HLA-A*11:01

using FlexPepDock[21], and examined the top 10 lowest energy models for each complex (Fig.

1H). Both models exhibited similar mean energy scores and peptide backbone conformations,

consistent with the observation that GTF3C2wt is predicted to be a strong binder, exhibiting a

0.19% percentile rank for binding to HLA-A*11:01, and that GTF3C2wt was co-presented with

pGTF3C2 in our MS data. Still, pGTF3C2 exhibited more solvent facing character due to

phosphorylated P4Ser (Fig.1H, left). Since T cell receptors typically strongly recognize P4-P6 of

a peptide, these docking results are concordant with the increased immunogenicity we observed

for pGTF3C2. These results demonstrated that certain phosphopeptides were presented by HLA-

A*11:01 exclusively in the malignant state and can mobilize phosphopeptide-specific T cell

responses in normal donors even when the wildtype peptide is co-presented by HLA-A*11:01.

An expanded phosphopeptide dataset yields shared HLA-A3 supertype phosphopeptide

tumor antigens.

We further expanded our dataset to include phosphopeptides curated from previous studies[4,30–

32], yielding a dataset containing 2,466 distinct phosphopeptides spanning 20 tissue types,

predominantly acute myeloid leukemia (n=19), mantle cell lymphoma (n=19), meningioma

(n=18), and EBV-BLCL (n=13) (Fig. 2A). To extend our studies of the A*11:01 allele, we

focused on phosphopeptides presented by HLA-A*03 supertype alleles, such as A*03:01 and

A*11:77. We found 772 phosphopeptides presented by A3+ or A11+ samples but not by samples

expressing other alleles and compared their presentation across all samples to find recurringly

presented phosphopeptides (Fig. 2B). Hierarchical clustering of the samples presenting these

phosphopeptides did not necessarily correlate with their tissue of origin or cancer type; however,

such an analysis is limited by the uneven distribution of tissues and HLA alleles in the dataset.

Unsupervised clustering of the 719 ≥9-mer A3/A11 phosphopeptide sequences revealed two

motifs: 68% belong to a motif dominated by P4 Ser and P5 Pro, a preference consistently

reported for phosphopeptides[4,10,32]; 32% belong to a motif characterized by repeated

leucines, reflecting the representation of A*03:01 samples in the dataset since submotifs of

A*03:01 contain an overrepresentation of leucine[35] (Fig. 2C). Recurringly presented A3/A11

phosphopeptides are summarized in Table 1. The majority of these phosphopeptides were

detected on both A3+ and A11+ samples. To infer the upstream kinase pathways involved in

phosphorylation, we performed kinase enrichment analysis[36] of the parental genes for all

phosphopeptides presented by at least two malignant A3/A11 samples, but not by healthy

samples. This analysis ranked the essential kinases ATR, CDK2, and PRKDC as most probable

upstream kinases, all of which are involved in cell cycle and DNA repair. Kinases are plotted by

decreasing MeanRank versus sum of ranks in each kinase library in Fig. 2D. Gene ontology

analysis revealed that our phosphopeptides preferentially derive from nucleic-acid binding

proteins (Fig. 2E). Moreover, HLA-A3/A11 phosphopeptides that were recurringly presented

derived from genetic dependencies in leukemia and lymphoma cells, such as SRRM1, SRRM2,

GTF3C2, and MYBBP1A (Fig. 2F). That the HLA-A3/A11 phosphopeptidome samples peptides

from proteins essential to lymphoma and leukemia cell proliferation supports the categorization

of selected phosphopeptides as shared tumor antigens.

Table 1: Summary of selected phosphopeptides from the expanded dataset presented by

HLA-A3 and/or HLA-A11. * denotes phosphopeptides selected for further study

Sequence	n samples presented on (n healthy samples)	Gene	HLA	Malignant tissue presentation
RVAsPTSGVK	15 (3)	IRS2	A03, A11	B-ALL, Melanoma, Ovarian carcinoma, Meningioma, Schwannoma, MCL
SVSsPVKSK*	15 (1)	MGA	A03, A11	EBV-LPD, EBV-BLCL, B-ALL, Melanoma
RTNsPGFQK	12 (0)	RBM26	A03, A11	EBV-LPD, EBV-BLCL, B-ALL, Ovarian carcinoma, Meningioma, BL
HVYtPSTTK	11 (3)	ANKRA2	A03, A11	B-ALL, Melanoma, Meningioma, Schwannoma, AML
RTAsPPPPPK*	11 (0)	SRRM1	A03, A11	EBV-LPD, EBV-BLCL, Melanoma, AML, MCL, BL
KLRsPFLQK	10 (2)	DBNL	A03, A11	B-ALL, Meningioma, AML, BL
KVQGsPLKK	10 (1)	AKAP12	A03, A11	B-ALL, Ovarian carcinoma, Meningioma, Schwannoma
KVSsPTKPK*	10 (1)	GTF3C2	A03, A11	EBV-LPD, EBV-BLCL, B-ALL, Melanoma, Ovarian carcinoma
RAKsPISLK	10 (1)	CARD11	A03, A11	EBV-BLCL, Meningioma, Schwannoma, MCL
RLSsPISKR	10 (1)	BARD1	A03, A11	Melanoma, Ovarian carcinoma, Meningioma, AML, BL
ATAsPPRQK	9 (1)	SRRM2	A11	EBV-LPD, EBV-BLCL, B-ALL, Meningioma
ATQsPISKK*	9 (0)	MYBBP1A	A03, A11	EBV-BLCL, EBV-LPD, B-ALL, Ovarian carcinoma, Meningioma
GSGsPAPPR	9 (1)	GPATCH8	A11	EBV-LPD, EBV-BLCL, B-ALL, Meningioma
SVKsPVTVK	9 (1)	TCF7L1	A03, A11	Meningioma, Melanoma, Schwannoma
RTAsPNRAGK*	3 (0)	HIF1A	A03, A11	EBV-LPD, B-ALL, Melanoma
RTAsPPALPK*	4 (0)	PRDM2	A03, A11	EBV-BLCL, EBV-LPD, Melanoma, BL
HSLsPGPSK*	4 (0)	PIM1	A11	EBV-BLCL, Meningioma
ATPTSPIKK*	8 (0)	PPP1R12A	A11	EBV-BLCL, EBV-LPD, B-ALL, Meningioma, MCL

Structural features of phosphopeptide complexes.

Phopshopeptide-MHC complexes have been postulated to be immunogenic by virtue of their

phosphate moiety conferring an increase in both MHC stabilization and solvent-facing character.

However, this characteristic is a not a universal feature as structural studies of phosphopeptide-

HLA-A2 complexes have shown this feature varies on a peptide-by-peptide basis. To determine

if phosphorylation conferred augmented peptide binding to HLA-A3 molecules, we determined

the binding of selected phosphopeptides and their unmodified ("wildtype") counterparts to MHC

via *in vitro* and *in silico* assays. Using TAP-deficient T2 cells, modified to express HLA-

A*03:01, we found that in 5 of 5 phosphopeptide-wildtype pairs, both peptides could stabilize

HLA-A*03:01 with no promiscuous binding to HLA-A*02:01, but the phosphorylated peptide

did not confer increased stabilization of HLA-A*03:01 compared to its wildtype counterpart

(Fig. 3A-C). In the case of one HLA-A3 phosphopeptide, pMGAP, phosphorylation appears to

dampen the capacity of the peptide to stabilize HLA-A3, requiring a higher concentration of

peptide to achieve the same degree of stabilization as unmodified MGAP, similar to what has

been reported for phosphopeptides binding B*07:02 and B*40:01[32,37]. By docking each

phosphopeptide and its wildtype counterpart to HLA-A3, we found that in 2/5 phosphopeptide-

wildtype pairs, MYBBP1A and MGAP, the unmodified peptide binds to HLA-A3 more stably

than its respective phosphopeptide as demonstrated by lower Rosetta energy scores of the top 10

most stable complexes (Fig. 3D). Only in the case of SRRM1 did its phosphopeptide yield a

significantly more stable complex than its unmodified peptide. For the two remaining

phosphopeptide-unmodified pairs, HIF1A and PRDM2, there was no large difference between

the stability of binding to HLA-A3. For MGAP, however, both in vitro stabilization and

molecular docking suggest that phosphorylation reduces the stability of the peptide-HLA-A3

complex. To determine the differences conferred by phosphorylation of MGAP, we examined

the top 10 models for pMGAP and MGAPwt and found they exhibit nearly congruent backbone

conformations (Fig. 3E). The mean number of hydrogen bonds formed at the binding interface

was not significantly different (11.7 for MGAPwt vs. 12.1 for pMGAP; two-tailed p-

value=0.39), leading us to further investigate the interfacial interactions. Because the Rosetta

score is a weighted linear combination of individual energy terms, we decomposed the Rosetta

energy function into its individual terms and calculated the mean $\Delta\Delta G$ of each term between the

MGAPwt and pMGAP models to clarify the energetic favorability underlying MGAPwt. The

strongest energetically favorable change was observed in electrostatic potential (Δfa_elec, -54.5

kcal/mol), which was offset by an unfavorable but smaller magnitude change in solvation energy

(Δfa_sol) of 29.5 kcal/mol (Fig. 3F). Since the only difference between the pMGAP and

MGAPwt structures is the presence or absence, respectively, of a phosphate moiety on P4Ser, we

examined which residues on HLA interact with P4Ser to stabilize MGAPwt (Fig. 3G), finding

that in MGAPwt, P4Ser interacts with Asn66 with a large mean potential of -0.574 kcal/mol.

Visualizing P4Ser in relation to Asn66 reveals sufficient van der Waals (VDW) radii[38] overlap

to constitute 7 contacts between these two residues in the MGAPwt/HLA-A3 structure (Fig. 3H,

left); however, in the pMGAP/HLA-A3 structure, P4Ser does not achieve sufficient proximity to

Asn66 to make such contacts (Fig. 3H, right). Nevertheless, since 3/5 phosphopeptide-wildtype

pairs that we examined were co-presented in our MS data, our results demonstrate that HLA-A3

can capably present both phosphopeptides and their wildtype counterparts.

Given the limited polymorphism of the HLA-C locus relative to the -A and -B loci, we

sought to characterize phosphopeptides presented by prevalent HLA-C alleles as potential tumor

antigens. To this end, we selected phosphopeptides found on multiple HLA-C*0701 and -

C*0702 expressing EBV-BLCL, tumors, and monoallelic cell lines[39], excluding

phosphopeptides whose sequences were detected in healthy cadaver tissue[40]. We selected 7

phosphopeptides, pRBM14, pRAF1, pMYO9B, pZNF518A, pWNK, pSTMN, and pNCOR, and

pulsed them onto T2 cells, modified to express HLA-C*0701 or -C*0702 to measure their

capacity to stabilize each HLA. Excepting pWNK, all of the selected phosphopeptides were

found on both C0701+ and C0702+ cell line immunopeptidomes. In spite of this, none of them

stabilized C*0702, but all of them stabilized C*0701 on T2 cells (Fig. 4A). To investigate the

molecular determinants of binding to HLA-C7, we docked each 9-mer phosphopeptide onto

either C*0701 or C*0702. For each phosphopeptide complex, the top 10 models were

consistently more stable for C*0701 than C*0702 phosphopeptide complexes, as measured by a

lower Rosetta energy score (fig. 4B). Despite the significant energetic difference between the

complexes, the peptide backbone conformations were similar between C*0701 and C*0702

complexes, with C*0701-bound phosphopeptides being slightly more shifted out of the HLA

groove (Fig. 4C); however, the buried interfacial solvent-accessible surface area (SASA) was

only significantly different between pNCOR-bound C*0701 and C*0702 complexes (Fig. 4D).

Examining representative structures for pNCOR shows that the discrepancies of conformations

between C7 molecules is mediated by different sidechain orientations (Fig. 4E). Since C*0701

and C*0702 differ by only two residues at positions 66 and 99, we hypothesized that direct

contacts with these residues may explain the difference in conformations and interfacial surface

area. pNCOR makes 12 and 13 hydrogen bonds to C*0702 and C*0701, respectively, but few of

these bonds are mutually observed in both complexes. When pNCOR is bound to C*0701, the

sidechain of P2Arg makes two hydrogen bonds with Tyr99 and one with Asp9, both belonging to

the β sheet of the HLA B-pocket. When bound to C*0702, which bears a serine at position 99

instead of tyrosine, P2Arg did not form a hydrogen bond with the distant Ser99 molecule (Fig.

4F), thereby losing two hydrogen bonds in the B-pocket β sheet. This change resulted in

C*0702-bound pNCOR forming additional hydrogen bonds with the HLA α1 helix between the

sidechain of P1Arg and Glu63, and between the phosphate moiety of P4pSer and Arg69. No

direct contacts were observed between the other distinguishing residue at position 66. These

changes in the C*0702 phosphopeptide complex resulted in a peptide conformation that is more

buried in the HLA groove and less energetically favorable. These results suggest altered B-

pocket interactions underlie the stability of phosphopeptides when bound to C*0701. Only 2/7 of

these phosphopeptides, pRAF1 and pWNK, were found to be co-presented with their wildtype

counterpart in our MS data. Docking their phosphopeptide-wildtype pairs to C0701 revealed no

energetic differences or peptide backbone differences (data not shown). The fact that 5/7 selected

phosphopeptides differentially expressed by tumors bound C0701 without co-presentation of

their wildtype peptide further suggests an abundance of phosphopeptide presentation by C0701,

concordant with previous observations[32].

Immunogenicity assessment.

The immunogenicity of HLA-A*0201-presented phosphopeptides in healthy donors has been

previously shown to derive from memory, rather than naïve, T cells, unlike other responses to

self-antigens [10,34]. Given the prevalence of phosphopeptide-specific T cells (PP-CTL), we

sought to detect PP-CTL via phosphopeptide dextramers assembled using an improved

method[28]. We assembled HLA-A*0201 dextramers in complex with 6 selected

phosphopeptides as well as an irrelevant A2-binding WT1 peptide, WT1_SLG, and used

fluorophore barcoding[41] to discriminate phosphopeptide specificity from WT1 specificity (Fig.

5A). We stimulated A*02:01$^+$ donor PBMC with A*02:01$^+$ T2 cells pulsed with the selected 6

phosphopeptides and found that after only 10 days, 4% phosphopeptide dextramer$^+$ CD8$^+$ T cells

could be detected that did not cross-react with WT1_SLG dextramer. However, PBMC from the

same donor contemporaneously stimulated with T2 cells pulsed with the A2-binding WT1_SLG

peptide did not yield T cells specific for either WT1_SLG or phosphopeptides (Fig. 5B),

providing evidence that the immunogenicity of phosphopeptides is more pronounced than that of

WT1_SLG despite our observation that these phosphopeptides and WT1_SLG comparably

stabilize HLA-A2. In two additional A*02:01+ healthy donor buffy coats, we were able to use

sequential magnetic enrichment to achieve a highly pure (>95% dextramer$^+$) PP-CTL population

(Fig. 5C). To determine if PP-CTL could exert effector function, we measured the specific IFNg

response of PP-CTL by ELISpot. Across 4 A*02:01+ donors, responses could be detected to

pIRS2 and pCDC25B (Fig. 5D,E), the latter of which were consistently phosphorylation-

specific.

Since we observed responses to certain A*11:01 phosphopeptides, we assembled an

A*11:01 dextramer panel encoding either phosphopeptide or irrelevant RAS G12V specificity

(Fig. 5F). When these dextramers were used to enrich and expand PBMC from an A*11:01+

healthy donor for PP-CTL, a small population of PP-CTL could be observed that did not

crossreact to irrelevant RAS G12V peptide dextramers (Fig. 5G). Unlike our observations of

A*02:01 PP-CTL, we did not observe A*11:01 PP-CTL directly after sequential magnetic

enrichment of PBMC from 2 additional A*11:01+ healthy donor buffy coats (data not shown).

Since our enrichment scheme co-enriches for RAS G12V specificity, our data suggest that

A*11:01 phosphopeptide responses are at least more prevalent than those of RAS G12V, but still

not as prominent as responses to A*02:01 phosphopeptides.

To detect HLA-A*03:01 PP-CTL, we assembled A*03:01 dextramers using shared

phosphopeptides identified from our analysis denoted in Table 1 and used A3-binding epitopes

of WT1 as irrelevant controls (Fig. 5H). We could not detect PP-CTL directly ex vivo after

dextramer enrichment of A*03:01 PBMC (data not shown), nor could we observe PP-CTL after

priming with phosphopeptide-loaded autologous DCs in 3 A*03:01+ healthy donors (Fig. 5G) or

repeated sensitization with phosphopeptide-pulsed T2-A0301 (data not shown). However, after

priming A*03:01-negative donor BMMC-derived T cells with allogeneic phosphopeptide-loaded

A0301+ DC, we could observe PP-CTL that bound A3 phosphopeptide dextramer (Fig. 5H, top),

but not irrelevant A3 WT1 dextramer (Fig. 5H, bottom). Interestingly, when we used a co-

enrichment scheme specific for the shared WT1/phosphopeptide fluorochrome AF647 and

expanded the resulting T cells, a minor population of WT1-specific, rather than phosphopeptide-

specific, T cells was observed (Fig. 5J). Overall, A0301 phosphopeptides appear to be less

immunogenic than A*03:01 WT1 peptides, and A*11:01 and A*02:01 phosphopeptides,

requiring, in our hands, stimulation of A*03:01-negative allogeneic T cells with loaded A*03:01

targets to elicit a phosphopeptide-specific response.

To determine if there were any immediate responses to phosphopeptides binding C*07:01

that we previously described, we assembled a dextramer pool containing pRBM14, pRAF1,

pMYO9B, pZNF518A, pWNK, pSTMN, and pNCOR in complex with C*07:01. In two C*07:01

healthy donor buffy coats we could not detect responses prior to or after sequential dextramer

enrichment (Fig. 5K); however, using iterative dextramer enrichment and expansion cycles, we

could generate a population of strongly dextramer-binding T cells from a C*07:01-negative

donor (Fig. 5L). These data suggest that these C*07:01 phosphopeptides, although in high

abundance in the immunopeptidome[32], do not generate prevalent T cell responses in the

autologous setting similar to A*03:01 phosphopeptides.

DISCUSSION

Phosphopeptides represent an emerging class of HLA ligands that have potential to be targeted

as shared tumor antigens produced not by mutations, but by cancer associated post-translational

modifications. Since T cell responses to phosphopeptides have been studied comprehensively in

the context of HLA-A*02:01 and -B*07:02[10,34,42], we sought to expand the

phosphopeptidome by systematically reanalyzing large immunopeptidomics datasets containing

phosphopeptides, yielding a new set of phosphopeptides presented by the HLA-A3 supertype as

well as C*07:01. We further used healthy tissue databases[40] to determine the extent to which

these phosphopeptides are found on healthy tissue. Our observation that there were

phosphopeptides whose HLA binding adheres to HLA-A3 supertype classifications while being

presented exclusively by malignant cells supports the potential of phosphopeptides as tumor

antigens that could be targeted across multiple alleles. Supertype binding has been observed

previously for phosphopeptides, such as in the case of the same epitope of pIRS2 binding to

A*02:01 and A*68:02, and its length variant binding A*03:01 and A*11:01[43]. Functionally

although aberrant phosphorylation is considered a hallmark of cancer, the phosphopeptides we

identified are mostly derived from common essential pathways, such as nucleic acid binding and

repair, rather than oncogenic kinase pathways. Interestingly, differential presentation of

phosphopeptides has been ascribed more to inhibition of critical phosphatases than kinase

overactivation[43].

We used TAP-deficient cells to verify that MS-identified phosphopeptides could stabilize

their cognate HLA alleles. All phosphopeptides selected for A*03:01 and C*07:01 bound their

cognate allele; however, A*03:01 phosphopeptides did not exhibit a binding advantage

compared to their wildtype counterparts. Previously, the half-lives and IC50 values of

phosphopeptide-HLA complexes were found to be improved over wildtype counterparts for only

1/5 HLA-A*01:01 peptides, 0/5 HLA-B*07:02 peptides, and 0/7 HLA-B*40:02 peptides[32,37].

This is in contrast to studies of HLA-A2, where phosphorylation was found to increase the

binding affinity of a given peptide by 1.1–158.6-fold in 10/11 cases[9]. However, it must also be

recognized that the discrepancies in binding properties of phosphopeptide-wildtype pairs

between HLA alleles may be affected by technical limitations. Specifically, MS data acquired in

data-dependent acquisition (DDA) mode will contain increased representation of charged

peptides, which fragment more efficiently. Since HLA-A2 alleles prefer hydrophobic anchor

residues, MS-identified HLA-A2 phosphopeptides may be more likely to contain suboptimal

anchor residues that preclude HLA binding in the absence of phosphorylation. This technical

limitation may be the underlying cause for identification of phosphopeptide-wildtype pairs that

are co-presented by HLA-A3, which prefers charged anchor residues. Interestingly, in

phosphopeptide-wildtype pairs, phosphopeptides more frequently displayed enhanced binding to

HLA-C*07:02 and -C*06:02 compared to -A and -B alleles[32]. In our data, we found that most

of our selected C*07:01 phosphopeptides were not co-presented with their wildtype counterparts,

but the two phosphopeptide-wildtype pairs that were presented did not display any differences in

energetics based on molecular docking, suggesting that while co-presentation can occur, the

phosphopeptide is the more abundantly presented of the pair. These data highlight the

importance of considering the residue preference of the HLA allele of interest when selecting

phosphopeptides with augmented binding properties.

Our structural studies based on molecular docking determined that peptide sidechain

interactions with the HLA B-pocket and α1 helix were critical determinants of phosphopeptide

binding to HLA-A3 and -C7. Previously, HLA-A0201 phosphopeptide binding was shown to be

dependent on phosphate-mediated contacts made with Arg65 of the α1 helix[9]. A more recent

study found that in HLA-B0702 phosphopeptide complexes, the phosphate moiety was within H-

bond distance to Arg62 of the α1 helix[44]. In the case of HLA-A0301, we found that a wildtype

P4Ser could mediate more favorable contacts with Asn66 of the α1 helix than phosphoserine.

However, the absence of these interactions observed in HLA-A3/pMGAP attenuated binding. In

a more dramatic case, we compared phosphopeptide binding to HLA-C*07:01 and -C*07:02,

alleles which only differ by two B pocket residues at 66 and 99[45]. We found that Tyr99 of

C0701 forms hydrogen bonds with P2 that were absent due to the presence of Ser99 of C0702.

These results demonstrated that B-pocket and α1 helix interactions can shape the character of

peptide binding to HLA in the presence of subtle differences like phosphate modification or

residue substitutions. Our results obtained by molecular docking are qualified, however, by the

absence of solvent interactions, which are accounted for in x-ray crystallography and explicit-

solvent molecular dynamics.

A feature of phosphopeptides that motivates development of phosphopeptide-targeted

agents is that the phosphorylated epitope sequences present a different recognition surface than

their wildtype counterparts. Thus, several studies have shown that T cells, TCRs, or TCR-like

antibodies specific for MHC-presented phosphopeptides specifically recognize phosphate

moieties without crossreactivity to wildtype peptides[10,17,44,46]. In contrast, class II-restricted

pWED-specific T cells did not differentiate between phosphopeptide and wildtype

counterpart[47]. Therefore, TCR-like agents capable of phosphorylation discrimination can be

developed, but such discrimination is not guaranteed when evaluating native T cells,

necessitating the use of adequate methodologic procedures to generate phosphorylation-specific

candidates.

Our study demonstrates that phosphopeptides are potentially shared tumor antigens, but

nuances between alleles present important considerations for the development of cancer

immunotherapies. Namely, A*03:01 and B*07:02 are similar in their co-presentation capacity of

phosphopeptide-wildtype pairs, whereas A*02:01 generally exhibits a binding preference for

phosphopeptides. However, A*02:01 and B*07:02 phosphopeptides are more frequently

immunogenic in an autologous setting than A*03:01 phosphopeptides. Therefore, A3

phosphopeptide targeting may require the use of allogeneic or synthetic TCRs to redirect

otherwise absent T cells, or the use of TCR-mimicking antibodies to directly engage immune

effectors.

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1: The A*11:01 immunopeptidome contains recurringly presented, immunogenic

phosphopeptides. (A) Unique peptide counts for class I and II nonphosphopeptides (left) and

phosphopeptides (right) across all samples on which we performed HLA-IP. (B) Length

distribution of class I and II nonphosphopeptides (left) and phosphopeptides (right). (C)

NetMHCpan4.0 predicted affinity versus peptide affinity rank for each HLA allotype present in

healthy B cells (left) and EBV-BLCL (right) from the same donor (Donor AP). Grey circles

indicate the position of phosphopeptides. Dashed line indicates 500nM affinity. (D) Total counts

of unique phosphopeptides between Donor AP's autologous healthy B cells and EBV-BLCL

visualized in C. (E) UpSet analysis of overlap in phosphopeptides between all HLA-A1101+

samples on which we performed HLA-IP. (F) ELISpot of Donor AP PBMC sensitized to the

indicated peptides, expressed as % of PHA-stimulated control for each peptide-sensitized

culture. Sensitized cultures were restimulated on ELISpot plate with either peptide pulsed

(+peptide) or unpulsed (-peptide) autologous PBMC. Representative images for pGTF3C2- and

GTF3C2wt-sensitized PBMC are shown to the right. (G) Tetramer staining of Donor AP PBMC

showing increased frequency of pGTF3C2 tetramer-specific CD8 T cells after pGTF3C2

sensitization relative to both irrelevant tetramer (A11/RAS_G12D) stained cells and irrelevant

peptide-sensitized autologous PBMC. (H) Docking results of the top 10 lowest energy models of

pGTF3C2 (left) or GTF3C2wt (right) in complex with HLA-A*11:01, with p4Ser highlighted to

show effect of phosphoserine on increasing solvent-facing character.

Figure 2: Expanded dataset of phosphopeptides. (A) Circle plot of tissue types represented in

expanded dataset showing counts of unique samples of each tissue type. (B) Heatmap

visualization of HLA-A3/A11 phosphopeptide presentation. Vertical axis represents distinct

tissue samples. Horizontal axis represents a distinct phosphopeptide. Samples are annotated on

the left by HLA allotype and tissue type. (C) Motif analysis of phosphopeptides in B. (D)

Kinases inferred to be upstream of parental genes of the phosphopeptides visualized in B.

Kinases are ranked by their MeanRank, with MeanRank decreasing from bottom to top, and

plotted against the sum of their ranks in each of the kinase libraries, which are indicated by color.

(E) GO term analysis of parental genes of phosphopeptides in (B). (F) Rank plots of genetic

dependency score (-1*average (DEMETER2 score)) for lymphoma and leukemia cell lines from

pooled RNAi screens[29] with parental genes of phosphopeptides denoted. Genetic dependency

increases from bottom to top. Known tumor-associated antigens Survivin (BIRC5) and WT1 are

denoted in grey for reference.

Figure 3: HLA-A0301 phosphopeptide binding properties. (A) Validation of HLA-A0301

stabilization using reference HLA-A3-binding peptide (PTOV1), A2-binding peptide

(WT1_SLG), and irrelevant peptide (MACC1). (B) Histograms of HLA-A3 staining on T2-

A0301 pulsed with 100ug/mL of the indication peptides. (C) HLA-A3 stabilization in response

to dose titration of phosphopeptide-wildtype pairs. (D) Rosetta score in REU units of top 10

models produced by FlexPepDock for each phosphopeptide-wildtype in complex with HLA-A3.

(E) Visualization of peptide backbone conformations of top 10 models for pMGAP and

MGAPwt in complex with HLA-A3. (F) Decomposition of mean $\Delta\Delta G$ by Rosetta energy score

terms between the top 10 MGAPwt and pMGAP models visualized in (E). (G) Electrostatic

potential of all P4Ser interactions with HLA-A3 for pMGAP and MGAPwt. (H) Visualization of

P4Ser interacting with Asn66 in MGAPwt/HLA-A3 (left) and pMGAP/HLA-A3 (right)

complexes. Pink lines indicate VDW overlaps sufficient to produce contacts between P4Ser and

Asn66. All statistics produced by paired t-test. p-value annotation legend: ns: 5.00e-02 < p <=

1.00e+00; *: 1.00e-02 < p <= 5.00e-02; **: 1.00e-03 < p <= 1.00e-02; ***: 1.00e-04 < p <=

1.00e-03; ****: p <= 1.00e-04.

Figure 4: HLA-C7 phosphopeptide binding properties. (A) HLA-C stabilization of indicated

phosphopeptides at 100ug/mL for T2-C0701, -C0702 or wt. (B) Rosetta score of top 10 models

produced by FlexPepDock for each indicated phosphopeptide in complex with HLA-C0701 and -

C0702. (C) Visualization of peptide backbone conformation for the top 10 models for each of

pNCOR/C0701 and pNCOR/C0702. (D) Buried interfacial solvent accessible surface area

(SASA) at the interface between each indicated phosphopeptide and C0701 or C0702. (E)

Representative visualization of sidechains for pNCOR/C0701 and pNCOR/C0702. (F)

Visualization of hydrogen bonds formed between P2Arg and Tyr99 in the pNCOR/C0701

complex (top) and absence of hydrogen bonds between P2Arg and Ser99 in pNCOR/C0702

(bottom). All statistics produced by paired t-test. p-value annotation legend: ns: $5.00e\text{-}02 < p <=$

$1.00e\text{+}00$; *: $1.00e\text{-}02 < p <= 5.00e\text{-}02$; **: $1.00e\text{-}03 < p <= 1.00e\text{-}02$; ***: $1.00e\text{-}04 < p <=$

$1.00e\text{-}03$; ****: $p <= 1.00e\text{-}04$.

Figure 5: Combinatorial fluorophore barcoded dextramer analysis of PP-CTL. (A) HLA-A0201

dextramer panel. HLA-A2/phosphopeptide dextramer is encoded by AF647/BV785 and

A2/WT1_SLG is encoded by PE/AF647 combination. (B) A0201+ donor T cells sensitized to

either phosphopeptides (top) or WT1_SLG (bottom). PP-CTL (top) can be detected by

A2/phosphopeptide dextramers in the AF647/BV785 channel and do not crossreact to

A2/WT1_SLG dextramer in the PE/AF647 channel. (C) Analysis of A0201+ donor buffy coats

enriched for PP-CTL by sequential dextramer enrichment over 2 magnetic columns and then

analyzed by flow cytometry. (D) ELISPOT of A0201 healthy donor T cells sensitized to A2

phosphopeptides pPKD2 and pIRS2. PHA response is shown as positive control and irrelevant

GTF3C2wt peptide response serves as negative control. (E) ELISPOT of 3 A0201 donors

(denoted A, B, C on y-axis) whose T cells were repeatedly sensitized to pCDC25B and then

rechallenged with autologous CD14+ cells pulsed with either of the indicated peptides listed

under "Target". PHA serves as a positive control. (F) A1101 dextramer panel encoding

phosphopeptides on BV785/AF647 and RAS G12V peptides on PE/AF647. (G) A1101 Donor

PBMC enriched with dextramers and expanded show binding to A1101/phosphopeptide

dextramers (AF647/BV785) but not irrelevant RAS G12V dextramers (PE/AF647). (H) HLA-A0301 dextramer panel encoding phosphopeptides on AF647/BV785 multiple A3-binding WT1 epitopes on PE/AF647. (I) Three A0301+ donors primed to the phosphopeptides in H. did not result in expansion of A3/phosphopeptide dextramer-binding cells (top), but A0301-negative donor BMMC stimulated with A0301+ DC produce A3/phosphopeptide dextramer-binding T cells that do not crossreact with A3/WT1 dextramer. (J) Dextramer-enrichment and expansion increases frequency of A3/WT1-specific T cells, but not PP-CTL. (K) C0701 Healthy donors do not have directly observable PP-CTL after dextramer enrichment with C0701/phosphopeptide dextramers on a single fluorochrome. (L) Dextramer-enriched and expanded T cells from C0701-negative donors bind C0701/phosphopeptide dextramer on dual fluorochromes (PE/PECy5). All flow plots gated on live, CD8+ CD19-CD14-CD123-CD40- single cells.

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