CD8+ lymphocytes modulate Zika virus dynamics and tissue dissemination and orchestrate antiviral immunity

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Abstract
CD8+ lymphocytes are critically important in the control of viral infections, but their roles in
acute Zika virus (ZIKV) infection remain incompletely explored in a model sufficiently similar
to humans immunologically. Here, we use CD8+ lymphocyte depletion to dissect acute immune
responses in adult male rhesus and cynomolgus macaques infected with ZIKV. CD8 depletion
delayed serum viremia and dysregulated patterns of innate immune cell homing and monocyte-
driven transcriptional responses in the blood. CD8-depleted macaques also showed evidence of
compensatory adaptive immune responses, with elevated Th1 activity and persistence of
neutralizing antibodies beyond the clearance of serum viremia. The absence of CD8+
lymphocytes increased viral burdens in lymphatic tissues, semen, and cerebrospinal fluid, and
neural lesions were also evident in both CD8-depleted rhesus macaques. Together, these data
support a role for CD8+ lymphocytes in the control of ZIKV dissemination and in maintaining
immune regulation during acute infection of nonhuman primates.
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Introduction

ZIKV has been a known pathogen for over half a century (Dick et al., 1952), but severe manifestations of the disease were not directly associated with the virus for most of its history. Although recent outbreaks of ZIKV in the Western hemisphere are notorious for neurological complications including congenital Zika syndrome (CZS) and Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), most cases remain asymptomatic, and when symptoms arise, they are usually mild and self-limiting (Plourde and Bloch, 2016). Differential immune responses to ZIKV infection may dictate the severity of accompanying diseases and underlie clinical outcomes.

As the immunological correlates of protection against ZIKV are beginning to be explored, the CD8 T cell response is emerging as an important mediator of viral control, as is true with other flaviviruses (Slon Campos et al., 2018). Studies in mice have identified CD8 T cell responses to ZIKV infection, but the induction of ZIKV-associated pathology in these models requires deficiency in type-I interferon (IFN) signaling (Elong Ngono et al., 2017; Huang et al., 2017), which is not representative of natural ZIKV infection in humans. This is perhaps an unavoidable caveat, as ZIKV is incapable of antagonizing type-I IFN signaling in mice as it does in humans due to a lack of recognition of murine STAT2 by ZIKV NS5 (Grant et al., 2016). Disrupting IFN-I signaling, either genetically or through antibody blockade is, therefore, necessary to recapitulate ZIKV neurotropism in mouse models. Importantly, these studies have described dual protective and deleterious effects of CD8 T cell responses in ZIKV infected mice. While CD8+ lymphocyte infiltration appears to reduce viral burdens in the brain, spinal cord and lymphatic tissue (Elong Ngono et al., 2017; Huang et al., 2017), under certain circumstances, CD8+ influx may also promote immunopathology, evidenced by neural damage and paralysis (Jurado et al., 2018). However, these findings have yet to be replicated in a model sufficiently similar to humans genetically and immunologically. Given the recent development of rhesus (Coffey et al., 2017; Dudley et al., 2016; Dudley et al., 2018; Magnani et al., 2018a; Osuna et al., 2016a) and cynomolgus (Koide et al., 2016; Osuna et al., 2016a) macaque models of ZIKV infection, we sought to explore the role of CD8+ lymphocytes in acute ZIKV infection by way of CD8+ lymphocyte depletion. CD8+ depletion is a well-established immune manipulation in nonhuman primates (Schmitz et al., 1999) and is thus a plausible approach to gauge how the absence of CD8+ cells impacts acute viremia and potentially modulates adaptive responses.

In the present study, we infected four adult male rhesus macaques and five adult male cynomolgus macaques with a minimally passaged Brazilian ZIKV strain. Prior to infection, two animals of each species were depleted of CD8+ lymphocytes, including CD8 T cells and natural killer (NK) cells. The absence of CD8+ lymphocytes resulted in striking virus-response patterns that were not evident in nondepleted macaques, including delayed serum viremia, enhanced viral dissemination to peripheral tissues, and global repression of antiviral gene transcription. CD8-depleted rhesus macaques also manifested brainstem lesions that were characterized by increased inflammation. Finally, the absence of CD8+ lymphocytes appeared to alter patterns of monocyte expansion and activation and induce compensatory adaptive responses, characterized by enhanced Th1 phenotypes and prolonged neutralizing antibody production.

Methods

Animal experiments

The four adult male Indian origin rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) and five adult male cynomolgus macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) utilized in this study were housed at the Tulane

National Primate Research Center (TNPRC). The TNPRC is fully accredited by AAALAC
International (Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care),
Animal Welfare Assurance No. A3180-01. Animals were cared for in accordance with the NRC
Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the Animal Welfare Act Animal
experiments were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Tulane
University (protocol P0367).

Two rhesus macaques (R25671 and R64357) and two cynomolgus macaques (C78777 and
C18942) were depleted of CD8+ lymphocytes by administration of the anti-CD8α antibody
MT807R1 (NHP Reagent Resource; https://www.nhpreagents.org) (Schmitz et al., 1999). The
initial subcutaneous administration of 10 mg/kg at 14 days pre-infection was followed by three
intravenous administrations of 5 mg/kg at 11, 7, and 5 days pre-infection, as per the distributor's
protocol. C84545 was treated with the irrelevant control antibody anti-desmipramine (NHP
Reagent Resource; https://www.nhpreagents.org) at the same dosages and time intervals pre-
infection. All animals were subcutaneously infected with 10^4 PFU of a Brazilian ZIKV isolate
(Bonaldo et al., 2016) at 0 days post-infection (dpi) (Fig. 1a). As part of a previous study,
C46456 (nondepleted cynomolgus macaque) was splenectomized 9 months and 19 days prior to
inoculation with ZIKV. For data comparison, we included viral loads and complete blood count
(CBC) data from a previous cohort of 4 non-pregnant female rhesus macaques (R32835,
R24547, R25508, R22624) that were similarly infected with the same dose of the same Brazilian
ZIKV isolate that was used in this study (Supplementary Figs. 2a-e).

Whole blood, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), and semen were obtained from animals at the indicated
timepoints (Fig. 1a). Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated from the blood
of rhesus macaques using SepMate tubes (Stemcell Technologies) according to the
manufacturer's protocol or from the blood of cynomolgus macaques using Lymphoprep
(Stemcell Technologies) for standard density gradient centrifugation. At necropsy, the indicated
tissues were collected and snap-frozen.

Virus quantification
Viral RNA was extracted from serum and CSF using the High Pure Viral RNA Kit (Roche).
Semen, as well as the indicated lymphoid, reproductive, GI, and neural tissues were
homogenized in Qiazol (Qiagen) using either disposable tissue grinders (Fisherbrand) or a
TissueRuptor (Qiagen), and RNA was isolated using the RNeasy Lipid Tissue Mini Kit
(Qiagen). Viral RNA from body fluids and tissues was quantified using qRT-PCR as described
previously (Magnani et al., 2018b).

Antiviral gene expression assays
2.5 ml whole blood was drawn from each animal at 0, 1, 3, and 15 dpi into PAXgene blood RNA
tubes (PreAnalytiX) and equilibrated to -80˚C as per the manufacturer's protocol. RNA was
extracted from blood samples using the PAXgene blood RNA kit (PreAnalytiX), and cDNA was
synthesized using the RT2 First Strand Kit (Qiagen). Transcriptional profiles of immune
signaling were generated using the nCounter NHP Immunology Panel of 770 macaque immune
response genes (NanoString Technologies). In whole blood, transcriptional responses were
assessed at 3 dpi relative to expression levels pre-infection using nSolver software v4.0
(NanoString Technologies). Fold change data were imported into Ingenuity Pathway Analysis
(IPA) (Qiagen) to discern relevant signaling pathways and disease functions. Antiviral
transcriptional responses were confirmed by way of qRT-PCR using a rhesus macaque RT2

Profiler PCR Array (Qiagen). Responses within each species and treatment group were analyzed
together to identify expression levels at the indicated timepoints relative to pre-infection.
Heatmaps of gene expression and disease-related pathways were generated using Morpheus
(https://software.broadinstitute.org/Morpheus). Principal component analysis (PCA) of antiviral
gene expression was performed using ClustVis (Metsalu and Vilo, 2015).

To identify cell populations contributing to antiviral signaling in blood, the CD14 and CD8
MicroBead kits (Miltenyi Biotec) were used to sort CD14+ monocytes and CD8+ lymphocytes
from the PBMCs of the indicated animals at peak transcriptional activity (3 dpi). RNA was
isolated from cell fractions using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen), and cDNA was synthesized
using the RT2 First Strand Kit (Qiagen). Transcriptional profiling was performed using the
nCounter NHP Immunology Panel (NanoString) and verified by RT2 qPCR Primer Assays
(Qiagen) for ISG15, OAS2, and DDX58.

To characterize antiviral signaling in myeloid cells, PBMCs were isolated from the whole blood
of ZIKV-naïve colony rhesus macaques as described above, and the CD14 MicroBead kit
(Miltenyi Biotec) was used to isolate monocytes. For the co-culture assay, monocytes were
incubated in the presence or absence of autologous CD8+ cells and/or ZIKV in a 96-well U-
bottom plate with 50,000 cells of each type plated per well for the indicated timepoints. qPCR
for ISG15 and OAS2 was performed as described above. For antiviral gene screening in
monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs), monocytes were cultured at 1×10^6 cells/ml in
RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 1% human AB serum (Sigma), 20 ng/ml M-CSF
(Peprotech), 1% L-glutamine, and 1% penicillin/streptomycin. After 7 days of culture,
monocytes were sufficiently differentiated into MDMs and were either infected with the same
Brazilian ZIKV isolate described above or left uninfected. At 24 hpi, RNA was extracted using
the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen), cDNA was synthesized using the RT2 First Strand Kit (Qiagen),
and transcriptional signaling was assessed using the rhesus macaque antiviral response RT2
Profiler PCR Array (Qiagen). Antiviral gene expression in ZIKV-infected monocyte-derived
macrophages (MDMs) was calculated relative to uninfected controls.

Flow cytometry and gating strategy
For absolute lymphocyte counts, whole blood was stained within 2 hours of blood draw for the
surface markers CD45 (PerCP; DO58-1283; BD Biosciences), CD3 (FITC; SP34; BD
Biosciences), CD4 (APC; L200; BD Biosciences), and CD8 (V500; SK1; BD Biosciences). Flow
cytometry was performed on a BD FACSVerse instrument, and absolute counts were calculated
using FACS Suite software.

For immunophenotyping, PBMCs from the indicated timepoints were thawed, washed, and
stained using Live/Dead Fixable Aqua Dead Cell Stain Kit (Invitrogen). PBMCs were then
stained for the surface markers CD16 (AL488; 3G8; BioLegend), CD169 (PE; 7-239;
BioLegend), CD28 (PECF594; CD28.2; BD Biosciences), CD95 (PCP-Cy5.5; DX2;
BioLegend), CD3 (PE-Cy7; SP34-2; BD Biosciences), CD8 (PacBlue; SK1; BioLegend), CD14
(BV605; M5E2; BD Biosciences), HLA-DR (BV650; L243; BioLegend), NKG2A (APC; Z199;
Beckman Coulter), and CD4 (APC-H7; L200; BD Biosciences). Cells were subsequently fixed in
FluoroFix buffer (BioLegend), permeabilized using Perm/Wash buffer (BioLegend), and stained
intracellularly for CD69 (BV711; FN50; BD Biosciences) and Ki67 (AL700; B56; BD
Biosciences). Flow cytometry was performed on a BD LSRII instrument and data were analyzed
using FlowJo (vX.10.4.2) and visual t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding (viSNE)

(Cytobank) softwares. For viSNE analysis, live singlet monocytes (CD14+ and/or CD16+) or
live singlet CD3+ T cells were gated prior to downsampling at a minimum of 500 cells per
animal in FlowJo v. 10.5.3. Downsampled files for each animal were then concatenated by group
(i.e., species, dpi, and treatment condition). When the number of animals differed per group,
concatenated files were further downsampled to achieve an equal number of cells per group.
viSNE was conducted using Cytobank with the following settings: Perplexity = 30, Iterations =
1000, Theta = 0.5, Seed = random, Compensation = internal file. For the monocyte viSNE, the
following parameters were utilized in the run: Ki67, CD14, HLA-DR, CD69, CD95, CD14, and
CD169. For the CD3+ T cells viSNE, the following parameters were utilized in the run: Ki67,
CD4, HLA-DR, CD69, CD95, CD28, CD3, CD8.

For general immunophenotyping analysis, cytometry data were first gated for lymphocytes,
singlets, and live cells. NK cells were considered as CD8+/CD16+. CD4 T cells (CD3+/CD4+)
and CD8 T cells (CD3+/CD8+) were gated into naïve (CD28+/CD95-), central memory (CM)
(CD28+/CD95+), and effector memory (EM) (CD28-/CD95+) subsets. CD3- cells were divided
into B cells (DR+/CD14-/CD16-) and monocytes (classical, CD14++/CD16-; intermediate,
CD14+/CD16+; nonclassical, CD14^{low}/CD16+). Cell subsets were analyzed with respect to
frequency, proliferation (Ki67+) and activation (CD69+ or CD169+).

Intracellular cytokine staining
PBMCs from the indicated timepoints were thawed and rested overnight prior to stimulation with
peptide pools comprising ZIKV capsid (C), membrane (M), envelope (E), and nonstructural
protein 1 (NS1) (BEI Resources). On peptide stimulation, cells were also treated with brefeldin
A (BioLegend), GolgiStop (BD Biosciences), anti-CD28 (NHP Reagent Reference Program,
www.nhpreagents.org/), anti-CD49d (9F10; BioLegend), and anti-CD107a (AL700; H4A3; BD
Biosciences). 24 hours post-stimulation, cells were stained for the surface markers CD3 (PE-
Cy7; SP34-2; BD Biosciences), CD8 (PacBlue; SK1; BioLegend), and CD4 (APC-H7; L200;
BD Biosciences). Cells were also fixed and permeabilized as described above and stained
intracellularly for perforin (FITC; Pf-344; Mabtech), granzyme B (PE; GB12; Invitrogen), CD69
(PE-CF594; FN50; BD Biosciences), IL-2 (PCP-Cy5.5; MQ1-17H12; BD Biosciences), and
IFNγ (AL647; 4S.B3; BioLegend). Flow cytometry was performed on a BD LSRII instrument
and data were analyzed using FlowJo software (vX.10.4.2).

Plaque reduction neutralization tests
ZIKV plaque reduction neutralization tests (PRNTs) were conducted according to previously
published protocols (Lieberman et al., 2009; Ward et al., 2018). Briefly, ZIKV MEX-I-44
isolated in Tapachula, Mexico in 2016 was obtained from The University of Texas Medical
Branch, Galveston, TX and cultured to passage 8 in Vero cells. Serum specimens were incubated
for one hour at serial dilutions of 1:10, 1:20…1:320 with a previously frozen virus stock of
known plaque forming unit (PFU). Samples were then inoculated in duplicate onto a mono-layer
of Vero cells grown on 6-well plates and allowed to incubate for an additional hour. Infectious
material was then removed and replaced with a 1:1 mixture of Vero media and Avicel® before
being incubated for 4 days. To read plaques, the Avicel® layer was fixed with 10% neutral
buffered formalin. Finally, the formalin-Avicel® layer was removed and the monolayer was
stained with crystal violet, washed with tap water and allowed to dry before plaques were
counted manually.

Percent reduction in observed plaques and a PRNT90 cutoff were used for interpretation. A
PRNT90 titer is the dilution of a sample at which a 90% reduction in possible plaques is
observed. The maximum number of potential plaques was obtained for each run using a
corresponding back-titration and a linear model was fit to the observed number of plaques for
each dilution. A PRNT90 titer was derived for each sample using the linear model and the
equation for a straight line in the statistical program R (R Core Team, 2018). For samples that
were positive but above the resolution of the PRNT assay the value of the greatest number of
possible plaques for that run, as determined by the back titration, was assigned for each dilution
for use with the linear model.

Histology
220 Tissues samples collected at necropsy were fixed in Z-Fix (Anatech), embedded in paraffin and 5
221 μ m thick sections were cut, adhered to charged glass slides, and either stained routinely with
222 hematoxylin and eosin or Prussian blue.

Statistical analysis
224 Statistical analysis was conducted using GraphPad Prism v6.07 (GraphPad Software). A Mann-
225 Whitney test was used to compare neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratios (NLRs) among treatment
226 conditions (CD8-depleted versus nondepleted).

Results
Delayed serum viremia and altered leukocyte kinetics
CD8+ lymphocyte depletion commenced 14 days prior to ZIKV infection (Fig. 1a), and CD8 T
cells were undetectable in all depleted animals well before infection (Fig. 1b & Supplementary
Fig. 1a). To achieve CD8 depletion, we used the MT807R1 antibody (Schmitz et al., 1999) to
target CD8α, effectively depleting CD8 T cells (Fig. 1b & Supplementary Fig. 1a), CD8+/CD4+
double-positive T cells (Supplementary Fig. 1b), and NK cells (Fig. 1c) but not CD4 T cells
(Supplementary Fig. 1c) from the blood of all treated animals. As MT807R1 targets NK cells in
addition to CD8+ lymphocytes, any deficiency in host response following treatment with anti-
CD8α could indicate that either or both types of cells are important for acute control of ZIKV.
Flow cytometric analysis of NK cell frequency in nondepleted animals revealed expansion early
in infection (Fig. 1c). Intriguingly, the CD8-depleted macaque R64357 recovered CD8 T cells
and NK cells at later timepoints, between 15 and 21 days post-infection (dpi) (Figs. 1b-c).

Following subcutaneous inoculation with ZIKV, nondepleted animals and a single CD8-depleted
cynomolgus macaque experienced rapid serum viremia of 3-4.5 logs at 1 dpi (Fig. 1d), consistent
with previous reports of ZIKV in both rhesus and cynomolgus macaques (Dudley et al., 2016;
Koide et al., 2016; Osuna et al., 2016b). Strikingly, serum viremia in 3 of 4 CD8-depleted
macaques was delayed until 2 dpi, when viral RNA was higher than in nondepleted animals (Fig.
1d). Viremia was also delayed until 3 dpi in *C46456 (Fig. 1d), a nondepleted cynomolgus
macaque that had been previously splenectomized. Perhaps importantly, the spleen is a major
site of replication and spread of the related mosquito-borne flaviviruses dengue virus (DENV)
(Prestwood et al., 2012) and West Nile virus (WNV) (Bryan et al., 2018) and is also an immense
reservoir of monocytes (Swirski et al., 2009), which are permissive to ZIKV replication in
humans (Michlmayr et al., 2017) and macaques (O'Connor et al., 2018). The lack of a spleen in
*C46456 (nondepleted) might have precluded ZIKV replication in this important target organ,
thereby delaying viral kinetics.

By 7 dpi, serum viremia persisted in the CD8-depleted cynomolgus macaques in addition to the mock-depleted control, while viremia was undetected in both nondepleted animals of the cohort (Fig. 1d). For the remainder of the study, viral kinetics were similar among cohorts and treatment conditions, peaking at 3 dpi and dropping to undetectable levels by 10 dpi and beyond (Fig. 1d). This was again in exception to *C46456 (nondepleted), which showed a small viral rebound at 10 dpi. A previous cohort of female macaques infected with the identical strain of ZIKV demonstrated similar patterns of serum viremia to those observed in nondepleted animals (Supplementary Fig. 2a).

The previous female cohort also showed consistent patterns of innate immune cell recruitment in the blood one day following ZIKV infection, summarized by the biomarker neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) (Faria et al., 2016). Patterns of leukocyte mobilization included a spike in neutrophil frequency (Supplementary Fig. 2c) and a simultaneous drop in lymphocyte frequency (Supplementary Fig. 2d), resulting in an elevated NLR at 1 dpi (Supplementary Fig. 2e). These findings were generally recapitulated in nondepleted animals but not in CD8-depleted animals (Figs. 1e-f and Supplementary Figs. 2c-e), potentially linking NLR and acute serum viremia, although the trend did not hold in the mock-depleted cynomolgus macaque C84545. This association is strengthened by prototypical patterns of leukocyte homing in C78777 (Fig. 1e), the only CD8-depleted macaque with serum viremia at 1 dpi (Fig. 1d).

Differential monocyte-driven transcriptional profiles
To characterize immune responses that might be differentiating patterns of viremia and leukocyte mobilization, we used the NanoString platform to quantify the expression of macaque immune-related genes in whole blood. CD8-depleted and nondepleted animals showed highly divergent profiles in genes related to IFNα signaling (Fig. 2a) and leukocyte homing (Supplementary Fig. 3a), resulting in the robust induction of disease-related pathways in nondepleted macaques that failed to activate in animals lacking CD8+ lymphocytes (Supplementary Fig. 3b). To confirm the transcriptional quiescence evident in CD8-depleted macaques, we used a quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) array of 84 antiviral genes in the rhesus macaque genome. Consistent with the NanoString results, nondepleted rhesus and cynomolgus macaques showed strong induction of several RIG-I like receptors (RLRs) and type-I IFN stimulated genes (ISGs) at 3 dpi, synchronous with peak serum viremia (Fig. 2b). The most highly induced genes include the pattern recognition receptors *TLR3*, *DDX58* (also known as *RIG-I*), and *IFIH1* (also known as *MDA5*), as well as the ISGs *ISG15*, *MX1*, and *OAS2*. Principal component analysis (PCA) of antiviral signaling further discriminated the transcriptional phenotypes in CD8-depleted and nondepleted animals (Fig. 2c). The induction of antiviral genes in nondepleted rhesus macaques was highest at 3 dpi and was generally followed by a return to near-baseline expression by 15 dpi (Supplementary Fig. 3c). In contrast to nondepleted animals, CD8-depleted macaques showed a virtual absence of transcriptional responses in whole blood at all timepoints tested (Figs. 2a-b and Supplementary Fig. 3d).

Although we suspected monocytes to be driving antiviral gene expression owing to their susceptibility to ZIKV infection (Michlmayr et al., 2017; O'Connor et al., 2018), an important caveat of probing whole blood is that the identity of the cell populations responding transcriptionally is unknown. To resolve cell populations contributing to antiviral signaling in blood, we sorted CD14+ monocytes from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) at 3 dpi and profiled their expression of immune genes. Probe hybridization revealed selective antiviral gene expression in the monocytes of a nondepleted macaque and showed that even purified and

sorted PBMCs from a CD8-depleted animal fail to establish transcriptional responses at peak
serum viremia (Fig. 2d). These findings were verified by qRT-PCR (Fig. 2e). Nonetheless, it
remained possible that the lack of a transcriptional response in CD8-depleted macaques could
have been attributed in part to an absence of otherwise responding NK cells. Sorting PBMCs
from a nondepleted rhesus macaque into CD8+ and CD8- fractions, we found similar levels of
gene induction in both populations, although expression was marginally higher in the CD8-
subset, and transcription of *DDX58* was almost exclusive to CD8- cells (Fig. 2f). Gene induction
in CD8+ cells indicates that NK cells may indeed contribute to antiviral signaling, but similar
transcriptional activation in the CD8- fraction affirms that the absence of transcriptional
activation in CD8-depleted animals was not simply the product of a lack of NK cells.

To further explore transcriptional responses to ZIKV in myeloid cells, we infected monocyte-
CD8 cell co-cultures *ex vivo* and compared antiviral gene expression to monocytes infected in
the absence of CD8+ cells, finding that the presence of CD8+ lymphocytes is important in
promoting transcriptional responses (Fig. 2g). We also cultured monocyte-derived macrophages
(MDMs) *in vitro*, infected the macrophages with ZIKV, and profiled antiviral gene expression
using qRT-PCR. We found an overlapping transcriptional fingerprint to those observed in the
blood of nondepleted rhesus and cynomolgus macaques at 3 dpi (Fig. 2h), suggesting that ZIKV-
permissive myeloid cells may be driving antiviral gene induction *in vivo*. Although cultured
MDMs exhibited higher induction of several TLR responsive genes (Fig. 2g), this difference
might be attributed to cell type.

Altered monocyte activation and frequency
Divergent transcriptional patterns in CD8-depleted and nondepleted macaques could be induced
by differentially responding monocytes, given that monocytes are known targets of ZIKV
infection (Lum et al., 2018; O'Connor et al., 2018) and contribute to antiviral signaling during
ZIKV infection (Lum et al., 2018). To interrogate the immunophenotypic effects of CD8
depletion, we developed a multicolor flow cytometry panel to track innate and adaptive immune
cells over time. The resulting data were highly dimensional, comprising a variety of surface
markers and sampling animals at multiple timepoints and with respect to different treatment
groups. To survey general immune responses over time, we used an adaptation of t-distributed
stochastic neighbor embedding (tSNE), viSNE (Amir et al., 2013).

In both rhesus and cynomolgus macaques, CD8 depletion dysregulated the kinetics of monocyte
activation as measured by CD169 (siglec-1) expression (Biesen et al., 2008; Hirsch et al., 2018;
York et al., 2007). Nondepleted rhesus and cynomolgus macaques showed early activation of
monocytes, peaking at 3 dpi and returning sharply to baseline by 14-15 dpi (Figs. 3a-c).
Upregulation of CD169 in nondepleted animals was affirmed at the RNA level (Fig. 2a).
Although patterns of CD169 induction were consistent in all monocyte subsets (Supplementary
Figs. 4a-c), viSNE analysis indicated that CD169 was most highly expressed on intermediate and
nonclassical monocytes in both cohorts (Figs. 3a-b). Contrasting nondepleted animals, CD8-
depleted rhesus and cynomolgus macaques showed less well-defined monocyte activation at 3
dpi, which was accompanied in rhesus macaques by prolonged monocyte activation beyond 15
dpi (Figs. 3a-c & Supplementary Figs. 4a-d). These findings were consistent transcriptionally, as
whole blood from CD8-depleted animals had muted expression of genes related to myeloid cell
activation (Fig. 3d). Monocyte subsets showed additional nuances in phenotype that appeared
dependent on CD8 depletion: In rhesus macaques, CD95 (Fas) was increased on classical
monocytes in CD8-depleted animals (Supplementary Fig. 4e) and on nonclassical monocytes in

nondepleted animals (Supplementary Fig. 4f), although similar patterns were not observed in
cynomolgus monkeys.

CD8 depletion also differentially modulated the abundance of monocyte subsets in blood. One
day following ZIKV infection, classical monocytes expanded immediately in nondepleted
animals of both cohorts (Fig. 3e) excluding the mock-depleted cynomolgus macaque C84545.
During acute infection (3-7 dpi), the frequency of nonclassical monocytes increased
preferentially in CD8-depleted rhesus macaques and in nondepleted cynomolgus macaques (Fig.
3f). Nondepleted rhesus macaques showed an expansion of intermediate monocyte frequency at
3-7 dpi (Fig. 3g), although a CD8-dependent effect on intermediate monocyte frequency was not
evident in cynomolgus monkeys.

Compensatory adaptive immune responses
Adaptive immune responses to ZIKV were also differentially modulated by CD8 depletion, with
apparent compensatory responses in CD8-depleted macaques of both cohorts. Nondepleted
rhesus and cynomolgus macaques began to mount CD8 T cell responses 7-10 dpi, which were
characterized by proliferation (Ki67) and activation (CD69) of effector memory (EM), central
memory (CM), and naïve CD8 T cell subsets (Figs. 4a-c & Supplementary Figs 5a-e). These
responses were antigen-specific and functional, given that CD8 T cells stimulated with ZIKV
peptides produced IFNγ and contained perforin by intracellular cytokine staining (ICS) (Fig. 4e).
Intriguingly, the CD8-depleted rhesus macaque R64357 also showed evidence of a CD8 T cell
response at 21 dpi (Figs. 4c & 4e), concomitant with the recovery of CD8+ lymphocytes in this
animal (Supplementary Fig. 1a). Although tested, antigen-specific T cell responses were not
detected by ICS in cynomolgus macaques.

The absence of CD8 T cells in depleted rhesus and cynomolgus macaques appeared to promote
the reciprocal activation and expansion of CD4 T cell subsets (Figs. 4a-b, 4d and Supplementary
Figs. 5f-j), mirroring the kinetics of CD8 T cell activation in nondepleted animals. CD8-depleted
rhesus macaques began to induce CD4 T cell responses consistent with a Th1 phenotype,
characterized by co-positivity for IL-2 and IFNγ, but such responses were not present in
nondepleted animals (Fig. 4f).

To gauge humoral responses to ZIKV, we conducted plaque reduction neutralization tests
(PRNTs) using rhesus macaque sera to quantify neutralizing antibody titers. All animals except
R20865 (nondepleted) showed evidence of neutralizing antibodies at 7 dpi, the earliest post-
infection timepoint tested (Fig. 4g). While highly neutralizing titers were detected in all animals
at 15 dpi, antibody concentrations declined in nondepleted animals, but not in CD8-depleted
animals, beyond this timepoint. Strikingly, depleted rhesus macaques retained highly
neutralizing antibody titers until necropsy, a finding consistent with elevated B cell activation
(Fig. 4h) and proliferation (Fig. 4i) in these animals.

Enhanced tissue dissemination and neuropathology
Given the persistence of high neutralizing antibody titers in CD8-depleted rhesus macaques, we
suspected that virus might be lingering in the peripheral tissues of these animals. The duration of
infection before necropsy differed among the rhesus (30 dpi) and cynomolgus (14 dpi) macaque
cohorts to identify patterns of viral dissemination and clearance over time. Informed by previous
reports of ZIKV tropism in macaques (Coffey et al., 2017; Hirsch et al., 2017; Osuna et al.,
2016b), we searched for viral RNA in lymphoid, neural, gastrointestinal (GI), and reproductive

tissues, as well as in semen and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to evaluate viral distribution in these
sites.

Relative to nondepleted animals, CD8-depleted cynomolgus macaques had markedly higher
levels of ZIKV RNA in the inguinal, mesenteric, and colonic lymph nodes, as well as in the
spleen and jejunum (Figs. 5a and 5c). All cynomolgus monkeys except C91638 (nondepleted)
harbored virus in the rectum without an obvious difference among treatment groups. Notably, the
trend of higher viral burdens in the lymphatic tissues of CD8-depleted animals was consistent in
rhesus macaques (Fig. 5f). CD8 depletion also appeared to promote ZIKV dissemination in the
semen, with both CD8-depleted cynomolgus macaques presenting semen viral loads and no viral
RNA detected in nondepleted animals of the same cohort (Fig. 5d). Intriguingly, the nondepleted
macaque C84545 (mock-depleted) showed the highest level of viral RNA in the prostate and was
the only animal to present virus in the testes (Fig. 5c), yet no ZIKV was detected in the semen of
this animal (Fig. 5d). These findings too were consistent in rhesus macaques, with virus detected
in the semen (Fig. 5g) and seminal vesicle (Fig. 5f) of a CD8-depleted animal and only a
miniscule quantity of viral RNA detected in the semen of a nondepleted animal (Fig. 5g).

ZIKV RNA was detected in the brainstem and subcortical white matter of C84545 (mock-
depleted) (Fig. 5b), and this animal also presented a high magnitude viral load in the CSF early
in infection, which persisted until necropsy (Fig. 5e). Exclusive of C84545 (mock-depleted),
CD8-depleted cynomolgus and rhesus macaques manifested CSF viral loads at least an order of
magnitude greater than nondepleted animals (Figs. 5e and 5h). Although ZIKV was not detected
in the central nervous system (CNS) of any rhesus macaque, R25671 (CD8-depleted) and
R64357 (CD8-depleted) manifested neural lesions at necropsy that were not present in
nondepleted animals. Most strikingly, the brainstem of R25671 showed an area of severe
multifocal to coalescing encephalomalacia which showed evidence of Wallerian degeneration,
characterized by vacuolation, swollen axons, and infiltration by lymphocytes and phagocytic
gitter cells (Fig. 5i). Gitter cells are occasionally found within dilated myelin sheaths. Scant
brown granular pigment (presumed hemosiderin) and a proliferative cerebral vessel adjacent to
the malacia may indicate that the malacia is the result of a vascular event (thromboembolism,
infarct, ischemia, etc.). Additionally, lymphocytic infiltrate was present in the meninges
surrounding the lumbar spinal cord (Fig. 5i). No gross abnormalities were noted in R64357,
although the sciatic nerve exhibited mild lymphocytic perivasculitis. The sciatic nerve is a
known site of ZIKV replication in mice depleted of CD8 cells (Elong Ngono et al., 2017).
Further, the brainstem contained a localized area of gliosis, an indicator of CNS damage
(Garman, 2011), and dilated myelin sheaths (Fig. 5j). A cause for these neural inflammatory
lesions was not apparent by histology.

Discussion
Owing to the importance of CD8+ T cells in the control of ZIKV in mice (Elong Ngono et al.,
2017; Huang et al., 2017), our aim was to explore whether these findings are consistent in
nonhuman primates. Despite a small sample size in two cohorts, the absence of CD8+
lymphocytes prompted immediately observable host responses that diverged from previously
consistent patterns of viremia and immunity. Contrasting similar experiments with simian
immunodeficiency virus (SIV) (Jin et al., 1999; Klatt et al., 2010), the absence of CD8+
lymphocytes did not overtly affect the control of serum viremia. However, the delay of serum
viremia in CD8-depleted macaques stood in patent contrast to patterns of acute ZIKV infection

observed by our own group (Supplementary Fig. 2a) and others (Dudley et al., 2016). Although a
mechanism underlying the delayed serum viremia remains obscure, it is possible that a lack of
NK cell stimulation in CD8-depleted animals may be misfiring viral replication in what would
otherwise be readily permissive monocytes. Indeed, monocytes engage in intercellular crosstalk
with NK cells (Dalbeth et al., 2004; Michel et al., 2012), and IFNγ is shown to support ZIKV
replication (Chaudhary et al., 2017). NK cell-derived IFNγ may activate ZIKV infected myeloid
cells in nondepleted animals, promoting an inflammatory milieu that favors early viral
replication. Alternatively, NK cells are shown to be minor reservoirs of ZIKV RNA in infected
humans (Michlmayr et al., 2017) and pigtail macaques (O'Connor et al., 2018), so the absence of
this potential target cell may contribute to the delayed serum viremia in CD8-depleted animals.
Additional co-culture assays may elucidate intercellular dynamics important for maintaining
patterns of innate immune regulation.

CD8 depletion also impacted the mobilization of leukocyte populations acutely following
infection, contrasting patterns reliably observed by our own group (Figs S2c-e) and others
(Osuna et al., 2016b). Macaques depleted of CD8 T cells and NK cells show little fluctuation in
the biomarker of inflammation NLR, indicating altered innate immune responses immediately
following infection. In line with these observations, mice lacking NK cells exhibit altered
neutrophil recruitment in a variety of infectious and noninfectious conditions (Costantini and
Cassatella, 2011). Neutrophil effector functions are modulated by NK cell-derived cytokines
(Costantini and Cassatella, 2011), a signaling axis which might have been disrupted by the
depletion of NK cells in macaques.

Confirming miscommunication within the innate immune system of CD8-depleted macaques,
these animals presented largely muted transcriptional activity in key virus response pathways
during acute infection. In nondepleted macaques, antiviral gene expression was driven
principally by circulating monocytes, which stood in sharp contrast to the transcriptional void
evident in CD8-depleted animals. Importantly, this signaling pattern was replicated in a co-
culture model *ex vivo*. Intercellular crosstalk between monocytes and NK cells affects
transcriptional responses to ZIKV infection (Lum et al., 2018), so the absence of NK cells in
CD8-depleted macaques might have permitted the infection to evade transcriptional induction in
monocytes, complementing the delayed viremia in these animals.

Consistent with a model of monocyte-dependent outcomes in acute ZIKV infection, CD8-
depleted and nondepleted macaques also differed in the magnitude and phenotype of their
monocyte responses during acute infection. Intermediate and nonclassical monocytes showed the
greatest degree of activation, agreeing with recent findings that these subsets are primary targets
of ZIKV in the blood (Foo et al., 2017; Jurado and Iwasaki, 2017; Michlmayr et al., 2017). CD8
depletion also impacted the activation of monocytes temporally, further underscoring
dysregulated innate responses in depleted animals. CD169 (siglec-1) is a sialic acid-binding
lectin previously found to be upregulated in acute ZIKV infection in rhesus macaques (Hirsch et
al., 2018; Hirsch et al., 2017). CD169 has important roles in virus capture by myeloid cells
(Sewald et al., 2015) and in the mounting of CD8 T cell responses in viral infection (van Dinther
et al., 2018), so the robust induction of CD169 in nondepleted animals might have promoted
sufficient CD8 T cell responses. CD8 depletion also affected monocyte frequency, possibly
contributing to differential transcriptional responses. The transient increase in classical
monocytes of both cohorts may be analogous to the monocytosis that accompanies acute ZIKV
replication in human patients (Michlmayr et al., 2017). The increase in CD16+ nonclassical

monocytes in CD8-depleted rhesus macaques is an outcome also observed in ZIKV infection of human blood (Foo et al., 2017), and the expansion of intermediate monocytes in nondepleted animals resembles ZIKV infection in Nicaraguan patients (Michlmayr et al., 2017). Although minor species differences were evident in the immunophenotyping of rhesus and cynomolgus monocytes, our data support a CD8+ lymphocyte-dependent effect in these transitions, possibly accounting for divergent transcriptional responses in blood.

In addition to modulating innate immune responses, the depletion of CD8+ lymphocytes also promoted compensatory adaptive responses to ZIKV in both cohorts. Nondepleted animals and even the CD8-recovering rhesus macaque R64357 mounted robust CD8 T cell responses, affirming the importance of CD8+ lymphocytes in acute infection. There is precedence for CD8 T cell responses to ZIKV in mice (Elong Ngono et al., 2017; Huang et al., 2017; Pardy et al., 2017) and humans (Grifoni et al., 2018; Grifoni et al., 2017), which appears to be consistent in nonhuman primates. Meanwhile, the presence of Th1 responses and prolonged humoral responses in CD8-depleted animals possibly compensate for the absence of CD8 surveillance. Such adaptive responses are reported in mice, as Th1 polarization (Pardy et al., 2017), and CD4-driven humoral responses (Lucas et al., 2018) are important for controlling infection. Our data support the importance of these adaptive responses in nonhuman primates, especially when the CD8 arm of adaptive immunity is compromised.

The persistence of high neutralizing antibody titers until necropsy in CD8-depleted rhesus macaques also suggested that there might be virus lingering in the peripheral tissues of these animals. Indeed, ZIKV RNA was generally more abundant in the lymphatic tissues, semen and CSF of CD8-depleted rhesus and cynomolgus macaques relative to nondepleted animals, implying the importance of CD8+ lymphocytes in limiting ZIKV dissemination and/or persistence in tissues. Lymphatic tissue viral loads were also consistently higher in cynomolgus compared to rhesus macaques, possibly reflecting the abbreviated time of infection before necropsy. Despite the detection of viral RNA in semen, ZIKV was scarce in reproductive tissues, in line with an absence of gross pathological lesions including atrophy of the testes. Although testicular atrophy is reported is murine models of ZIKV (Uraki et al., 2017), such manifestations have not been observed in macaques or in clinical cases (Matusali et al., 2018). In rhesus monkeys, it is possible that viral RNA in neural and reproductive tissues might have been only transiently present due to viral clearance given the 30-day infection period of these animals. Previous reports in rhesus (Aid et al., 2017) and pigtail (O'Connor et al., 2018) monkeys have also shown that ZIKV persists in lymphatic tissues well beyond the clearance of virus from the serum. It remains unclear whether the ZIKV present in lymph nodes is replication competent, but our data are nonetheless consistent with a model where the absence of CD8+ lymphocytes permits the dispersal of ZIKV.

CD8-depleted rhesus macaques also presented gross neural lesions at necropsy not seen in nondepleted animals. The most severe lesion occurred in the brainstem of a depleted animal that never recovered CD8+ lymphocytes, and similar manifestations of encephalomalacia and axon degeneration have been reported in ZIKV infection of human fetal brain tissue (Driggers et al., 2016; Petribu et al., 2018; Vesnaver et al., 2017). Perhaps complementarily, neural lesions in the CD8-recovering rhesus macaque were less severe. Although it is tempting to speculate that the absence of CD8+ lymphocytes in R25671 (CD8-depleted) and R64357 (CD8-depleted) allowed neural dissemination of the virus and thereby promoted neuropathy, our inability to detect ZIKV RNA in brain sections from these animals precludes this conclusion. Because ZIKV was cleared

from the CSF of rhesus monkeys within 15 dpi, it is possible that virus could have also cleared
from the CNS by necropsy and that these lesions were virus associated even if viral RNA was
not detectable late in infection. Supporting this argument, CSF viral loads appear to be associated
with ZIKV dissemination in neural tissue, given that the mock-depleted cynomolgus macaque
C84545 showed the highest and most persistent CSF viremia and was also the only animal with
ZIKV RNA identified in the brain. Despite the presence of CD8+ lymphocytes in C84545, this
animal was the sole example of neural dissemination and occasionally produced responses more
similar to CD8-depleted animals in key immune measures including NLR and classical
monocyte frequency, underscoring the importance of innate immunity in limiting viral
dissemination. Although it remains possible that off-target antibody effects produced
immunological nuances in C84545, this animal ultimately aligned more closely with nondepleted
animals in terms of serum viremia, antiviral gene induction, and adaptive immune activation,
affirming the importance of CD8+ lymphocytes in maintaining immune regulation during acute
ZIKV infection. The general absence of immune surveillance and IFN signaling in CD8-depleted
animals might have permitted initial infection of neural tissues, which might have been transient
due to the eventual priming of compensatory adaptive responses. Additionally, ZIKV localizes as
discrete foci in macaque tissues (Hirsch et al., 2018), complicating the detection of sparse viral
lesions within organs. It is worth noting that CNS localization of ZIKV has been observed as
early as 5 dpi in acutely infected macaques (Osuna et al., 2016b), and a separate study in rhesus
monkeys failed to identify ZIKV RNA in the CNS at 14 dpi, despite diffuse patterns of viral
dissemination (Coffey et al., 2017). These findings, together with our own, establish precedence
for early CNS dissemination of ZIKV in nonhuman primates, which may be cleared later in
infection.

In summary, the present study illustrates a pliable dynamic between ZIKV and its hosts. CD8
depletion appears to alter innate immune activation and antiviral signaling and also modulate
viral kinetics without overtly affecting serum viremia. Together with apparently compensatory
adaptive responses and the presence of enhanced viral tissue distribution, these findings suggest
that CD8 T cells provide default adaptive immune responses to ZIKV, a conclusion with
important consequences for immune-based interventions such as vaccine development.

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Author contributions

BS, AP, and NM planned the studies. BS, MF, ES, MW, KH, DS, RB, MG, LDM, and VD
conducted the experiments. DW and MB provided reagents. BS, MF, MW, RB, AP, and NM
interpreted the studies. BS and NM wrote the first draft. AP and NM obtained funding. All
authors reviewed, edited, and approved the paper.

Conflict of Interest
The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Contribution to the Field
A number of reports have indicated an important role for CD8 T cells in the control of ZIKV
replication in mice, but these models are limited in that the mice need to be

immunocompromised for efficient viral infection. Using two established nonhuman primate
models of ZIKV infection, we found that CD8+ lymphocytes are critical in orchestrating the
earliest immune events during viral infection. The absence of CD8 cells enhanced viral
dissemination into multiple tissues and prompted immediately observable host responses that
diverged from previously consistent patterns of viremia and immunity. Importantly, the
implications of these data may reach beyond ZIKV and are likely instructive to how CD8 cells
interact with other immune cells to coordinate the control of viral infections generally.

Materials & Correspondence

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Figure legends

Figure 1

Delayed serum viremia and altered leukocyte kinetics in CD8-depleted macaques. (**A**) Study

design. Two animals of each cohort were depleted of CD8+ lymphocytes, and all animals were

infected with a Brazilian isolate of ZIKV. Viremia was tracked over 30 days in cohort 1 and 14

days in cohort 2 before necropsy. Colors used in the timeline correspond to cohorts and treatment

conditions. C46456 (nondepleted) was splenectomized in a previous study and is indicated by an

asterisk (*) throughout. (**B**) Flow cytometric analysis of CD8 T cell frequencies in PBMCs over

time. (*Top*): cohort 1; (*Bottom*): cohort 2 (consistent throughout). (**C**) NK cell frequency, as

measured by flow cytometry. (**D**) Viral RNA in serum over infection (error bars, SD). (**E**) NLR,

derived using total neutrophil and lymphocyte counts in blood from CBC data. (**F**) Fold change

in NLR from 0 to 1 dpi among 4 rhesus and 4 cynomolgus macaques included in the present

study in addition to a previous cohort of 4 ZIKV-infected non-pregnant female rhesus macaques

(center line, mean; error bars, SD). (The blood of one CD8-depleted cynomolgus macaque,

C18942, clotted prior to complete blood count (CBC) analysis, precluding calculation of NLR

for this animal.) The significant ($p \leq 0.05$) difference in NLR fold change was determined using

a Mann-Whitney test.

Figure 2

Differential monocyte-driven transcriptional profiles among CD8-depleted and nondepleted

macaques. (**A**) Activation of downstream IFNα effector molecules in whole blood at 3 dpi

relative to pre-infection (cyno. = cynomolgus, consistent throughout). (**B**) Fold regulation of

antiviral gene expression in whole blood at 3 dpi, confirmed using a qRT-PCR array of 84 genes

in the rhesus macaque genome (dep. = CD8-depleted; non. = nondepleted). (**C**) PCA of antiviral

gene expression in whole blood at 3 dpi. (**D**) Activation of downstream IFNα effector molecules

in sorted CD14+ monocytes and CD14- PBMCs at 3 dpi. (**E**) qPCR confirmation of antiviral

gene expression in CD14+ monocytes and CD14- PBMCs at 3 dpi. Gene induction is normalized

to b-actin, and fold regulation is expressed relative to 0 dpi. (**F**) Antiviral gene expression in

CD8+ and CD8- fractions of PBMCs from a nondepleted rhesus macaque at 3 dpi. Gene

induction is normalized to b-actin, and fold regulation is expressed relative to 15 dpi. **(G)**
Antiviral gene expression in co-cultured CD14+ monocytes and autologous CD8+ cells from
ZIKV-naïve PBMC infected with ZIKV *ex vivo* at 1 and 3 dpi. **(H)** Comparison of antiviral gene
induction in cultured, ZIKV-infected MDMs (red) and the whole blood of nondepleted rhesus
(blue) and cynomolgus (green) macaques at 3 dpi. Genes included in the qPCR array relate to
toll-like receptor (TLR), nod-like receptor (NLR) or type-I interferon (IFN-I) signaling (resp. =
responsive).

Figure 3
Altered monocyte activation and frequency in CD8-depleted macaques. (**A-B**) viSNE analyses of
monocyte activation in rhesus (A) and cynomolgus (B) macaques, as measured by CD169 mean
fluorescence intensity (MFI). Dot plots are concatenated for animals within each treatment
condition. The viSNE clustering profile of monocyte subsets (*left*) correspond to cell populations
in the CD169 MFI heatmaps in nondepleted and CD8-depleted animals over time (*right*). **(C)**
summaries of CD169 expression in total monocytes. **(D)** Induction of genes related to myeloid
cell activation at 3 dpi relative to pre-infection. (**E-G**) Frequencies of classical (E), nonclassical
(F), and intermediate (G) monocyte subsets in rhesus and cynomolgus macaques over time.

Figure 4
Compensatory adaptive immune responses in CD8-depleted macaques. (**A-B**) viSNE analyses of
T cell activation in rhesus (A) and cynomolgus (B) macaques, as measured by CD69 expression.
Dot plots are concatenated for animals within each treatment condition. The viSNE clustering
profiles of CD4 and CD8 T cell subsets (*left*) correspond to cell populations in the CD69
heatmaps in nondepleted and CD8-depleted animals at 1 & 10 dpi (*right*). (**C**) Proliferation of
EM CD8 T cells in rhesus and cynomolgus macaques over time. CD8-depleted macaques are
excluded owing to the absence of CD8+ lymphocytes in these animals exclusive of R64357 at
later timepoints. (**D**) Proliferation of EM CD4 T cells in rhesus and cynomolgus macaques over
time. **(E)** CD8 T cell responses in rhesus macaques, assessed by ICS of PBMCs stimulated with
viral peptides derived from the indicated ZIKV proteins (C = capsid; M = membrane; E =
envelope; NS1 = nonstructural protein 1, consistent throughout). CD8 T cell responses were
identified by co-positivity for perforin and IFNγ. (**F**) Th1 responses, determined by ICS for IL-2
and IFNγ co-positivity. (*Inset*): representative antigen-specific cytometry plots for R64357
(CD8-depleted) at 30 dpi. **(G)** Serum neutralizing antibody titers in rhesus macaques, represented
as PRNT90. **(H)** Activation of B cells in rhesus macaques over time. (**I**) Proliferation of B cells
in rhesus and cynomolgus macaques over time.

Figure 5
Enhanced tissue dissemination and neuropathology in CD8-depleted macaques. (**A-E**) Viral
dissemination in cynomolgus macaques, including lymphatic (A), neural (B) and reproductive
(C) tissues, as well as semen (D) and CSF (E) (center line, mean; error bars, SD of two replicates
per sample, LN = lymph node; sub. wt. matter = subcortical white matter, consistent throughout).
(F-H) Viral dissemination in rhesus macaques, including lymphatic, neural, and reproductive
tissues (F), as well as semen (G) and CSF (H). (**I**) R25671 (CD8-depleted) brainstem (top) and
lumbar spinal cord (bottom). *Top*: There is an area of encephalomalacia (dotted region, left)
adjacent to a vessel that exhibits medial thickening (arrow, left). The area of malacia is
characterized by dilated myelin sheaths with swollen axons (arrow, right) or gitter cell
infiltration (asterisks, right). H&E, Bar = 100 um. *Bottom*: The meninges surrounding the lumbar
spinal cord are multifocally infiltrated by aggregates of lymphocytes (arrows). H&E, Bar = 1 mm

(left) and 100 um (right). (**J**) R64357 (CD8-depleted) sciatic nerve (top) and brainstem lesions
(bottom). *Top*: Small vessels within the sciatic nerve are surrounded by low numbers of
lymphocytes (arrows). *Bottom*: A focal glial nodule is present within the gray matter of the
brainstem (dotted region, left) with dilation of adjacent myelin sheaths and spheroid formation
(arrowhead, right). H&E, Bar = 100 um.

Figure S1
MT807R1 depletes CD8+ lymphocytes with variable recovery. (**A**) Absolute CD8 T cell counts
in blood, as determined by complete blood count (CBC). (**B-C**) Absolute counts of CD4+/CD8+
double-positive T cells (B) and (C) CD4 T cells prior to infection, determined by CBC.

Figure S2
Comparison of virus and immune cell dynamics to a previous female cohort. Data from a
previous cohort of ZIKV-infected non-pregnant female rhesus macaques is shown in gray, and
data from rhesus macaques of the present study is overlaid. (**A**) Serum viral loads over the course
of the studies (error bars, SD). (**B**) CSF viral loads over the course of the studies. (**C-D**)
Frequencies of neutrophils (C) and total lymphocytes (D) in whole blood over time, determined
by CBC. (**E**) NLR, derived using total neutrophil and lymphocyte CBC data.

Figure S3
Transcriptional responses correlate with serum viremia in nondepleted macaques. (**A-B**) Pathway
analysis of gene expression in whole blood at 3 dpi relative to pre-infection reveals the induction
of genes related to leukocyte homing (A) as well as differentially activated biological functions
and disease-related pathways among CD8-depleted and non-depleted animals (B). (**C-D**)
Patterns of antiviral gene induction at 1, 3, and 15 dpi in the whole blood of nondepleted (C) and
CD8-depleted (D) rhesus macaques relative to pre-infection.

Figure S4
CD8 depletion modulates monocyte phenotype during ZIKV infection. (**A-C**) Flow cytometric
analysis of monocyte activation, as measured by CD169 expression in classical (A), intermediate
(B), and nonclassical (C) subsets in rhesus and cynomolgus macaques. (**D**) Overall monocyte
activation, as measured by CD69 expression. (**E-F**) Expression of CD95 in classical (E) and
nonclassical (F) subsets.

Figure S5
Reciprocal T cell responses are polyphenotypic. (**A-E**) Immunophenotyping of CD8 T cells in
rhesus and cynomolgus macaques, including EM CD8 activation (A), CM CD8 activation (B)
and proliferation (C), and naïve CD8 activation (D) and proliferation (E). (**F-J**)
Immunophenotyping of CD4 T cells, including EM CD4 activation (F), CM CD4 activation (G)
and proliferation (H), and naïve CD4 activation (I) and proliferation (J).

Fig 1: Delayed serum viremia and altered leukocyte kinetics

Fig 2: Differential monocyte-driven transcriptional profiles

Fig 3: Altered monocyte activation and frequency

Fig 4: Compensatory CD4 and humoral responses

Fig 5: Enhanced tissue dissemination and neuropathology