

Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences

Turkish Journal

of

Medical Sciences


Immunization of Mice with Plasmid DNA Encoding Hepatitis B Virus Core Antigen (HBcAg)

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 [Keywords](#)

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Abstract: The aim of this study was to investigate the antibody response following immunization with plasmid vector DNA containing the hepatitis B virus core antigen (HBcAg) gene of a hepatitis B virus (HBV) isolated from a patient in Turkey. A HBcAg gene fragment was cloned into a pcDNA 3 eukaryotic expression vector. After confirmation of the cloning of the HBcAg gene, the expressing vector based HBcAg was used in DNA immunization experiments. Four-to 6-week-old Balb/c mice were immunized with HBcAg expressing plasmids and the anti-HBcAg antibody responses of the mice were evaluated by enzyme immunoassay (EIA). The results of this study indicated that HBcAg expressed from pcDNA 3 based eukaryotic expression vector induced an anti-HBcAg response when introduced intramuscularly into Balb/c mice.

Key Words: Hepatitis B virus, core antigen, DNA immunization

Turk J Med Sci 2003; **33**(2): 61-63.

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