

# Immunodeficiency II

26.10.2012

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- Cellular primary immunodeficiencies
- Secondary immunodeficiencies
- Immunological laboratory tests
- Case studies

# 1. Combined T and B deficiencies

## SCID

severe combined immunodeficiency

- heterogeneous group of rare genetically determined disorders resulting from impaired T and B functions
- 1-5 per 500 000 live births (in CR: 1 new SCID /2-4 years)
- (SCID might be a cause of some undiagnosed infant death)

# Classification of SCID

- **T-B-NK-SCID**
  - reticular dysgenesis; *defect of ADA genes* →
  - accumulation of toxic purine metabolites in lymphocytes
- **T-B-NK+**
  - (*RAG1/2 defects* → defects of TCR, BCR rearrangement)
- **T-B+NK-**
  - (approximately 50 % of SCID are *X-linked defect of IL-2 receptor  $\gamma$  chain*)

..

# Characteristic features of SCID

- **Onset of infections in the first weeks/months of life**
- often **viral, fungal** (candida) infections (rather than bacterial)
- **chronic diarrhoea**
- respiratory infections (**Pneumocystis jirovecii**)
- **oral thrush, ecsema** - erythrodermia
- absence of obvious infections
- **lymphopenia**
- **serious adverse reaction** to tbc vaccination

# Some other CID

- **Di George syndrome**

thymus hypoplasia or aplasia; abnormal facies, hypoparathyroidism, cardiovascular defects; immunological abnormalities (variable severity)

- **Chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis**

*Candida albicans* infections, endocrine abnormalities (hypothyroidism, Addison's d., recurrent bacterial infections)  
e.g. *AIRE* gen mutation

- **Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome**

thrombocytopenia, eczema, recurrent infections, malignant diseases (*WASP* gen mutation)

# Management of patients with defects of cellular immunity

- Early recognition of PID (differentiation from HIV)
- Avoidance of infections: antimicrobial prophylaxis
- Avoidance of live vaccines, conventional blood transfusions (? Why ?)
- Grafting of viable immunocompetent cells (bone marrow transplantation; stem cell transplantation)
- Replacement of missing factors (short time effect)

**2.**

**Secondary  
immunodeficiencies**



# Secondary ID

- Far more common than primary ID
  - There are a lot of causes which can lead to
    - **failure of synthesis** of the immune components (quantitative/ qualitative)
- or
- to **intensive consumption**, catabolism, loss of the immune components

# Clinical symptoms of secondary ID

- **Susceptibility to infection, malignancy...**  
(severity of ID depends on the cause)
- **! More complex disorder of the immune system than PID**
- An isolated defect of one part of the immune system is very rare
- Deficiency of innate immunity is more common

# Main causes of secondary ID

- **Metabolic diseases (DM), malnutrition, avitaminosis, bowel diseases (infections or IBD), tumours...**
- **Failure of innate barriers (burns, dermatitis, toxic lesions, injuries...)**
- **Infection – HIV;CMV; influenza, measles, malaria...**
- **Lymphoproliferative diseases**
- **Autoimmune diseases**
- **Iatrogenic disorders (operation, drugs, radiation...)**

# - Malignancy and ID

- **Pathophysiology of ID**

1. Role of the immune system:

- antibodies or T cells (to destroy tumour cells) cross-react with normal tissues and destroy them

2. Role of substances produced by tumours

(hormones, enzymes, cytokines....)

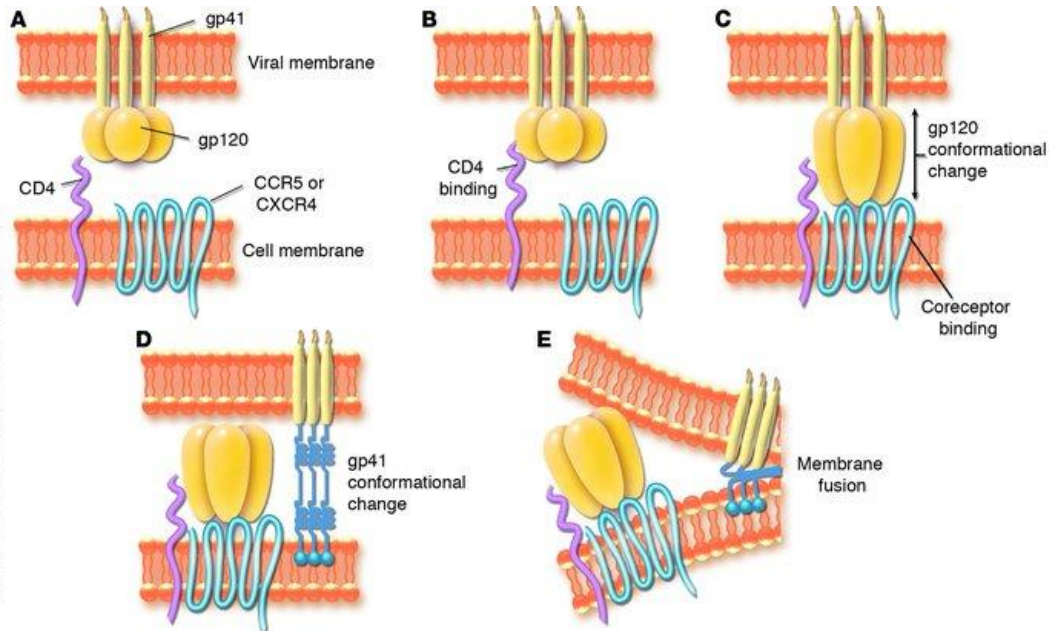
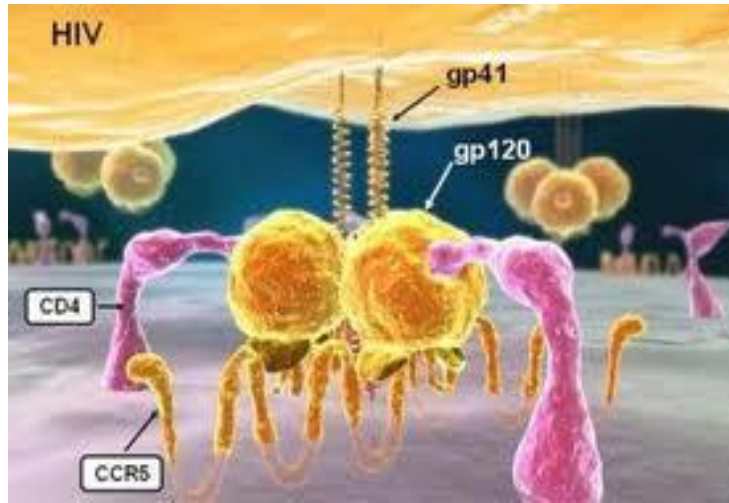
## **Paraneoplastic syndrome**

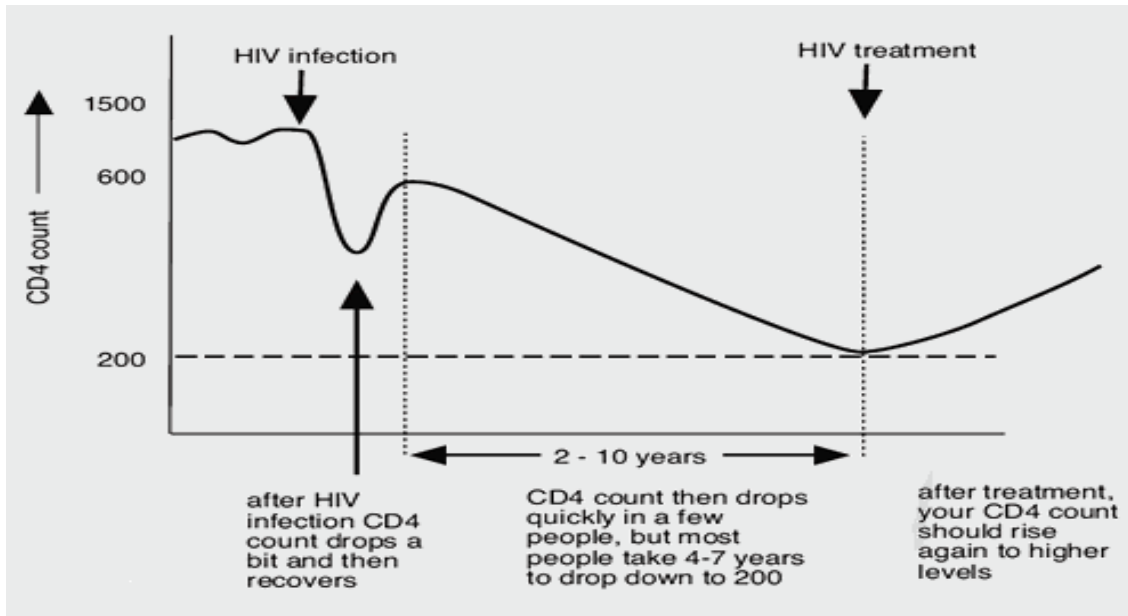
- Involves symptoms resulting from substances produced by tumours and/or from activity of the immune system

## - Infection and secondary ID

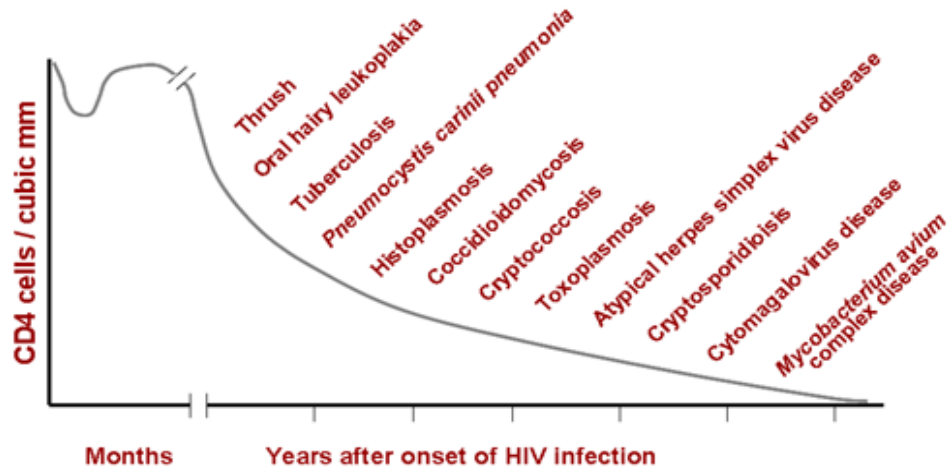
HIV infection: spectrum of disorders

- Acute glandular fever-like illness
- **AIDS**-a final stage of HIV infection-
  - Severe opportunistic infections
  - Tumours
  - Dementia (due to brain atrophy)
  - Autoimmune diseases





## Natural History of HIV-1 Infection



## CD 4+ count (cells/ $\mu$ l) / type of infection

**1200 – 700**            **normal healthy adults**

**<500**    tuberculosis (PTB), oral or vaginal thrush, herpes zoster, herpes simplex virus, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

**<300**    **very severe** thrush (candidal infec.) & oral hairy leukoplakia,

**<200**    cryptococcal meningoencephalitis, *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, *Candida albicans* esophagitis

**<100**    toxoplasmic encephalitis+ CHORIORETINITIS, cryptococcal meningitis, AIDS dementia, Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy(JC virus), wasting syndrome - extreme weight loss and anorexia caused by HIV

**<50**      CMV retinitis, Mycobacterium avium (MAC) infection



# Causes of CD4+ lymphopenia

## Secondary

- HIV infection (AIDS)
- Autoimmune (antilymphocytic antibodies)
- Malignancy

## Primary, idiopathic

- Clinical presentation: recurrent papillomavirus infection

# Splenectomy /immunodeficiency state

- Defects of phagocytosis
- Lower IgM level
- Susceptibility to infection (sepsis) caused by encapsulated bacteria

## Immunization after splenectomy:

- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- *Haemophilus influenzae type b*
- *Neisseria meningitidis*

# Immunological tests

## Evaluation of humoral immunity

- Serum immunoglobulin levels (Ig classes, subclasses)
- Complement evaluation
- Specific antibody levels to vaccination antigens (tetanus + diphtheria toxoid, polysaccharide antigen (STP))

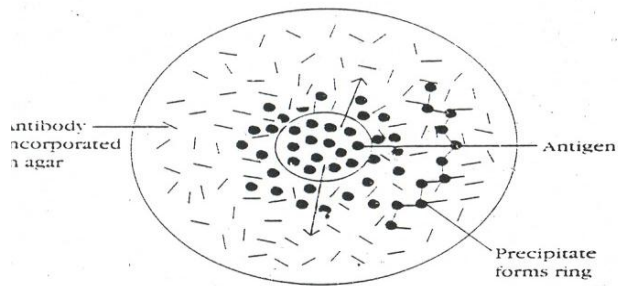
## Evaluation of cell-mediated immunity

- Leukocyte (and lymphocyte) number
- T and B lymphocyte enumeration (CD4, CD8, CD19)
- Test of T cell function – stimulation with mitogens
- Phagocytosis (activity)
- Skin test (for delayed type hypersensitivity)

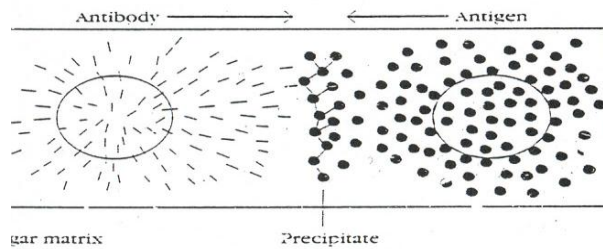
# 1. Serum level of immunoglobulins

- a/ immunoprecipitation - radial immunodiffusion (Mancini's)

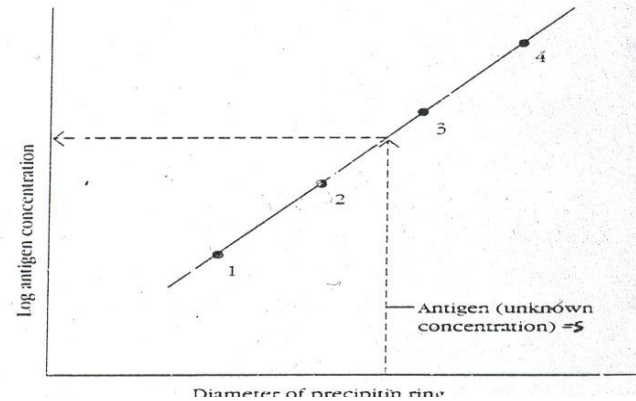
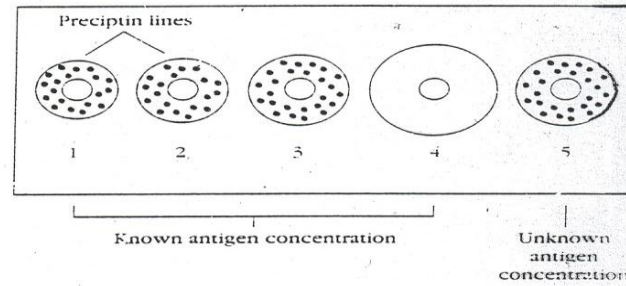
SINGLE IMMUNODIFFUSION



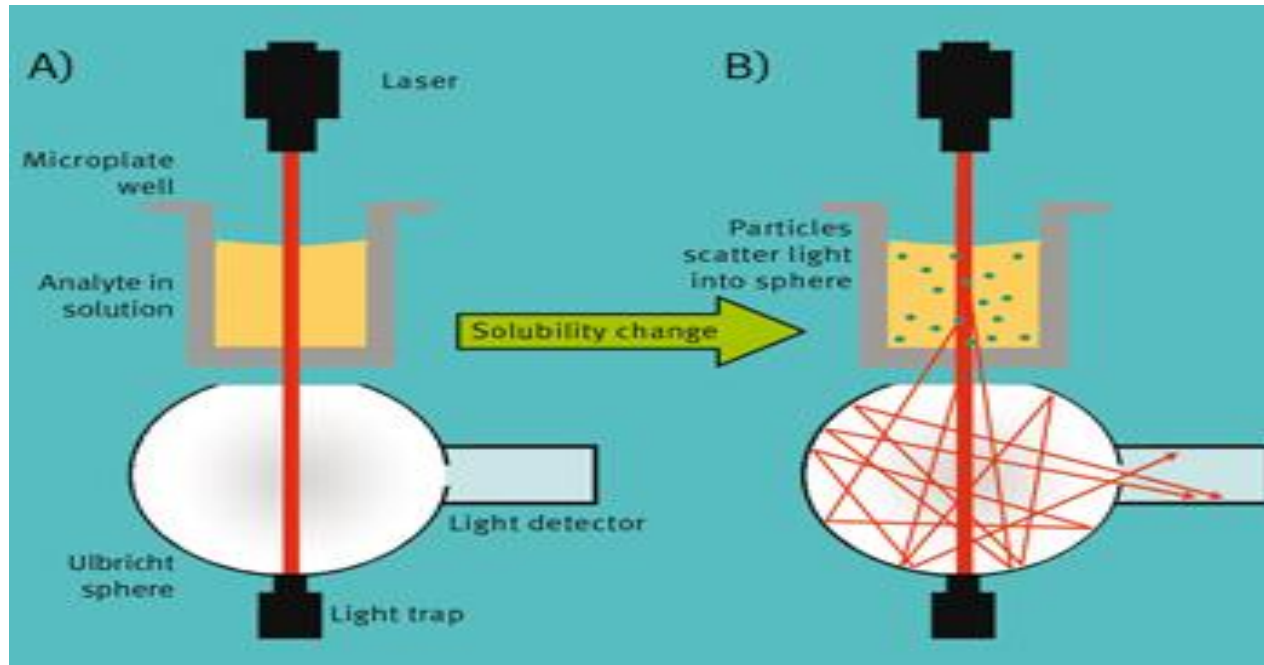
DOUBLE IMMUNODIFFUSION



Antibody incorporated into agarose gel<sup>2</sup>



- b/ Current tests (!):  
**Turbidimetry and nephelometry**



Medium with dispersed particles (different refractive indices)

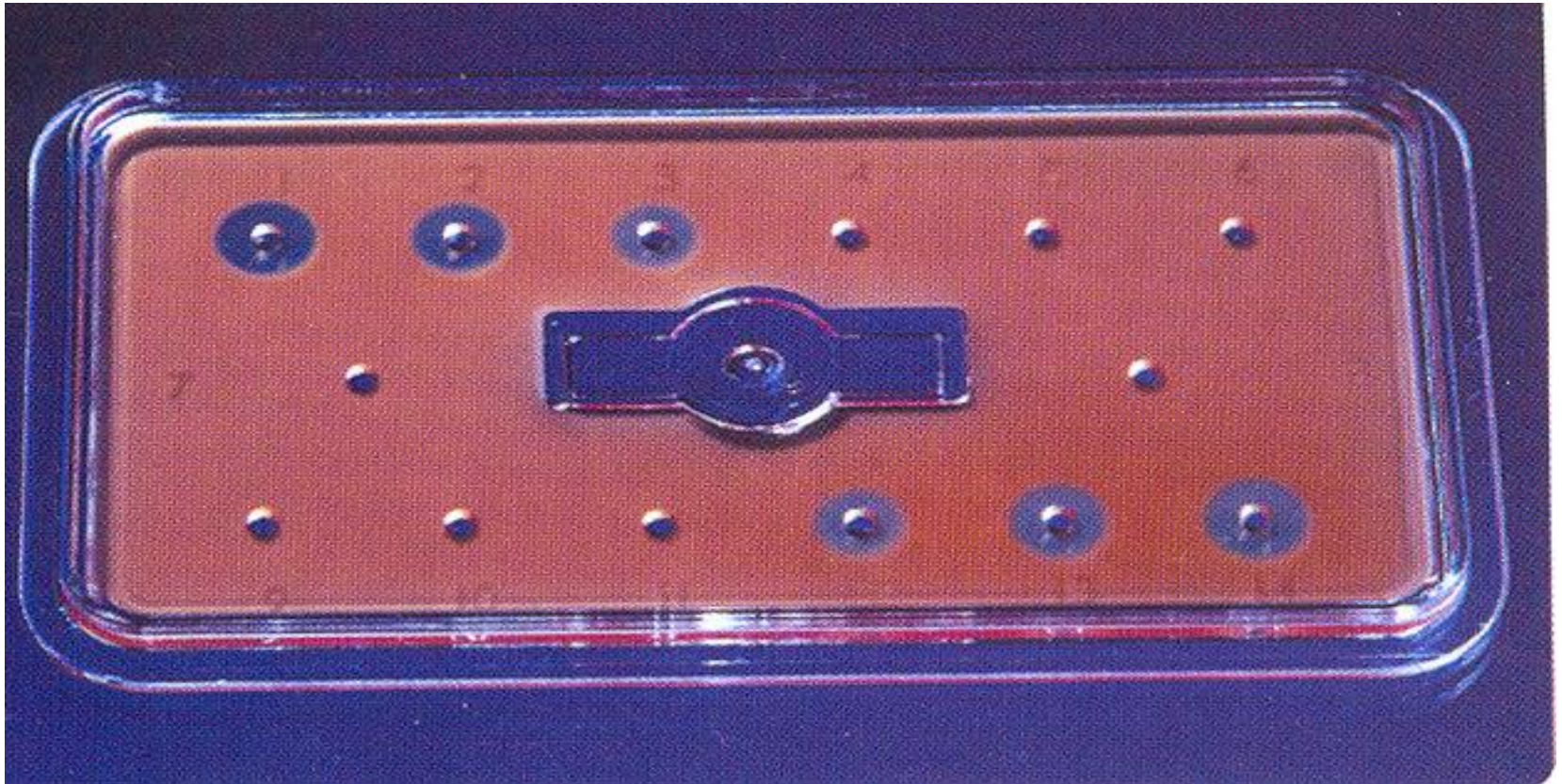
Attenuated light intensity by scattering on particles

## 2. Complement evaluation

- **a/ Quantitative analysis: levels of complement components**
  - (C3, C4, C1q, C1 inh, MBL...)
  - Test: nephelometry, immunoprecipitation
- **b/ Functional test:**
  - Hemolytic activity of the complement (CH100, CH50, AP 50)

# Hemolytic activity of complement (CH 100 or CH50 test)

(in agar, or in tube)





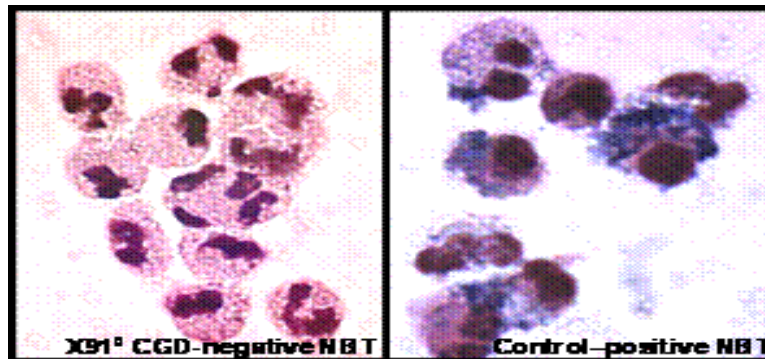
# 3. Phagocytosis evaluation

- **A/ Quantitative determination of leukocyte phagocytosis**
  - Microscopic test with hydrophilic particles or with fluorescein-labelled opsonized bacteria (ESC-FITC)
  - **Result:** overall percentage of monocytes and neutrophils ingesting one or more bacteria per cell
  - Indication: neutrophil dysfunctions, immunosuppressive treatment

## B/ Testing of bactericidal mechanisms

**test of the respiratory burst** (generation of superoxide ions)

methods: flow cytometric test (dihydrorhodamine rhodamine) or NBT



NBT reduction test

NBT

Phagocytic cells can change a colourless chemical called nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT) **into a deep blue colour**. This change is mediated by generated oxygen.

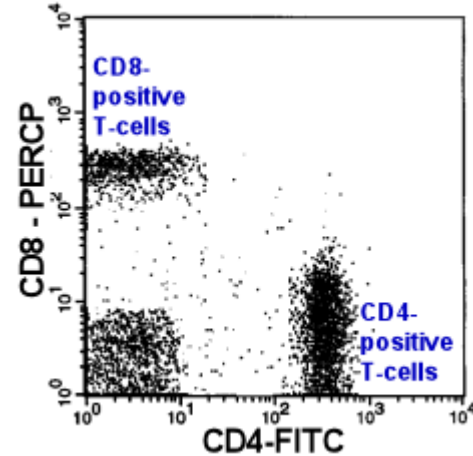
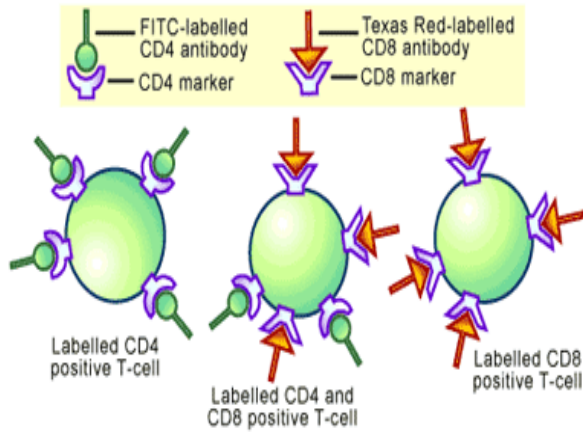
# 4. Lymphocyte subpopulations

**Flow cytometry** identifies cell subsets  
on basis of

- **physical characteristics** (size, granularity)
- **abilities to bind fluorochrome tagged monoclonal antibodies** (against surface molecules or intracellular ones)
- *a lineage - and differentiation-specific cell molecules*
- *a monoclonal antibodies specific for the molecule*
- *different types of fluorochromes*

# Fluorescent flow cytometry analysis

A specific example: the analysis of the markers on T-cells



# 5. Lymphocyte proliferation test

- Measures ability of lymphocytes to proliferate in response to various stimuli such as
  - plant lectins: pokeweed mitogen (PWM)  
phytohaemagglutinin (PHA)
  - bacterial lipopolysaccharide (LPS), candida

On basis of  $^3\text{H}$  thymidine incorporation  
in DNA strands

- Result: counted radioactivity (cpm – count per minute)

## 6. Skin testing of DTH



*Candida albicans* and PPD test

# 4 Stages of Testing for Primary Immunodeficiency

- 1**
  - History and physical examination, height and weight
  - CBC and differential
  - Quantitative Immunoglobulin levels IgG, IgM, IgA (related to age)
- 2**
  - Specific antibody responses (tetanus, diphtheria)
  - Response to pneumococcal vaccine (pre/post) (for ages 3 and up)
  - IgG subclass analysis
- 3**
  - Candida and Tetanus skin tests
  - Lymphocyte surface markers CD3/CD4/CD8/CD19/CD16/CD56
  - Mononuclear lymphocyte proliferation studies (using mitogen and antigen stimulation)
  - Neutrophil oxidation burst (if indicated)
- 4**
  - Complement screening CH50, C3, C4
  - Enzyme measurements (adenosine deaminase, purine nucleoside phosphorylase)
  - Phagocyte studies (surface glycoproteins, mobility, phagocytosis)
  - NK cytotoxicity studies
  - Further complement studies AH50
  - Neo antigen to test antibody production
  - Other surface/cytoplasmic molecules
  - Cytokine receptor studies
  - Family/genetic studies



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These recommended immunologic tests reflect a consensus of the Jeffrey Modell Foundation Medical Advisory Board. Consultation with Primary Immunodeficiency experts is strongly suggested. © 2009 Jeffrey Modell Foundation

For information or referrals, contact the Jeffrey Modell Foundation: 866-INFO-4-PI | [info4pi.org](http://info4pi.org)

# Treatment of ID



(Depends on the type of ID (PID /secondary + humoral/cellular) and severity of defects)

(Treatment of the underlying disease)

## **Replacement and antimicrobial therapy**

- Immunoglobulin replacement therapy (i.v., s.c.; D: 400-600 mg/kg/month) – antibody deficiency
- Hyperimmune Ig (VZV, CMV, HBV...)
- Antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal or antiparasitic therapy or prophylaxis

## **Stem cell transplantation**

(SCID, severe phagocytic disorders)

## **Gene therapy**

(monogenic ID – Bruton's, X-SCID)

# Other methods of treatment of ID patients

- Nutrition – protein rich diet (in developing countries, old people, ...)
- Vitamins (vit. C)
- Physical activity
- Hardening, psychotherapy...
  
- Vit. D ?? (conclusions of study - 2012)
  - Monthly vitamin D supplementation at 100,000 IU over 18 months is not associated with a reduced rate of URTIs.
  - Monthly supplementation with 100,000 IU of vitamin D is not associated with reduced duration or severity of URTIs or missed days from URTIs