

Peer Review

Review of: "Sting Pathway Activation by Orally Administered Attenuated dsRNA Vaccine Virus for Therapy of Viral Diseases"

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This review advances a bold and translationally oriented hypothesis that orally administered attenuated IBDV can function as a broad-spectrum antiviral immunomodulator through STING pathway activation, positioning viral superinfection therapy (SIT) as a complementary “plan B” to vaccination. The manuscript is conceptually innovative, integrates innate immune sensing biology with clinical strategy, and provides a structured regulatory development roadmap, which strengthens its practical appeal. The mechanistic discussion linking dsRNA sensing, interferon induction, STING crosstalk, and potential synergy with ultra-low-dose immune checkpoint inhibitors is scientifically stimulating. However, the article would benefit from a more balanced and critical tone. Strong claims of safety and efficacy across multiple viral families should be clearly differentiated between preclinical data, small clinical studies, case reports, and randomized trials. Quantitative summaries (sample sizes, endpoints, statistical outcomes) are needed to substantiate therapeutic assertions. The autobiographical herpes zoster case, while interesting, should be framed cautiously as anecdotal evidence rather than supportive proof. Additionally, potential risks—such as chronic innate immune activation, interferon-mediated toxicity, autoimmunity, viral persistence, or regulatory biosafety concerns—require deeper discussion. A comparative section evaluating IBDV against synthetic STING agonists, TLR agonists, and other innate immune modulators would enhance scientific neutrality. Overall, the manuscript introduces an intriguing and potentially impactful antiviral strategy, but its acceptance in high-impact immunology or virology journals would be strengthened by clearer evidence hierarchy, tempered conclusions, and expanded safety and regulatory analysis.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.