

Peer Review

Review of: "Thrombospondin Regulation Differentiates HIV Patients with Natural and Therapy-Mediated Control of Plasma Viremia: A Genome-Wide Transcriptomic Analysis"

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The authors of the manuscript present the results of a genome-wide transcriptome expression analysis (25,000 genes) on peripheral blood mononuclear cells from nine treatment-naïve compared with 15 newly diagnosed HIV+ patients before and after > one year of viremia control by HAART. The authors found that there was a significant difference between immune pathways in patients with therapy-mediated control of HIV replication compared to those with natural control of viremia. A very important result of the study is the finding that thrombospondin plays an essential role in apoptosis and that its downregulation in viremic patients can be used as a biomarker to characterize immunological control pathways in treatment-naïve patients, in addition to predicting optimal treatment response in newly diagnosed HIV+ patients. I believe that the study design is optimal. The obtained results have important scientific value, as well as practical value in the monitoring of HIV-positive patients. The authors acknowledge the study's weaknesses, namely the small number of patients studied. The obtained data are the basis for conducting future larger prospective studies to confirm the results of this study.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.