Anti-Idiotypic Antibody Specific to GAD65 Autoantibody Prevents Type 1 Diabetes in the NOD Mouse

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Abstract

Overt autoantibodies to the smaller isomorph of glutamate decarboxylase (GAD65Ab) are a characteristic in patients with Type 1 diabetes (T1D). Anti-idiotypic antibodies (anti-Id) directed to GAD65Ab effectively prevent the binding of GAD65 to GAD65Ab in healthy individuals. Levels of GAD65Ab-specific anti-Id are significantly lower in patients with T1D, leading to overt GAD65Ab in these patients. To determine the possible protective role of GAD65Ab-specific anti-Id in T1D pathogenesis, we developed the monoclonal anti-Id MAb 8E6G4 specifically targeting human monoclonal GAD65Ab b96.11. MAb 8E6G4 was demonstrated as a specific anti-Id directed to the antigen binding site of b96.11. MAb 8E6G4 recognized human antibodies in sera from healthy individuals, T2D patients, and T1D patients as established by ELISA. We confirmed these MAb 8E6G4-bound human antibodies to contain GAD65Ab by testing the eluted antibodies for binding to GAD65 in radioligand binding assays. These findings confirm that GAD65Ab are present in sera of individuals, who test GAD65Ab-negative in conventional detection assays. To test our hypothesis that GAD65Ab-specific anti-Id have an immune modulatory role in T1D, we injected young Non Obese Diabetic (NOD) mice with MAb 8E6G4. The animals were carefully monitored for development of T1D for 40 weeks. Infiltration of pancreatic islets by mononuclear cells (insulitis) was determined to establish the extent of an autoimmune attack on the pancreatic islets. Administration of MAb 8E6G4 significantly reduced the cumulative incidence rate of T1D and delayed the time of onset. Insulitis was significantly less severe in animals that received MAb 8E6G4 as compared to control animals. These results support our hypothesis that anti-Id specific to GAD65Ab have a protective role in T1D.

Citation: Wang X, Zhang A, Liu Y, Chen S, Feng Z, et al. (2012) Anti-Idiotypic Antibody Specific to GAD65 Autoantibody Prevents Type 1 Diabetes in the NOD Mouse. PLoS ONE 7(2): e32515. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0032515

Editor: Irun R. Cohen, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel

Received December 8, 2011; Accepted January 27, 2012; Published February 24, 2012

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Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health (www2.niddk.nih.gov/) (grant numbers DK26190, DK17047, and DK53456), a basic science grant from the American Diabetes Association (www.diabetes.org/) (1-09-RA-64 to CSH), grant 2006BAI04A03 of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (www.most.cn/eng/), and a grant from the Natural Science Foundation of China (www.nsfc.gov.cn/Portal0/default106.htm) NSF-C 81100555/H0707. The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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Introduction

Autoantibodies to the 65 kld isomorph of glutamate decarboxylase (GAD65Ab) are well-recognized humoral markers of the autoimmune response of type 1 diabetes (T1D) [1]. However, our recent findings suggest that GAD65Ab exist also in healthy individuals, where their binding to GAD65 is blocked by specific anti-idiotypic antibodies (anti-Id) [2]. The serum concentration of GAD65Ab-specific anti-Id in T1D patients is significantly lower as compared to that in healthy individuals, resulting in the easy detection of GAD65Ab using conventional radioligand binding assays [2].

According to the “network hypothesis” [3], anti-Id and autoantibodies co-exist to maintain the homeostasis of the immune system. An imbalance of this network may induce autoimmune diseases and a negative correlation between anti-Id and autoimmune disease has been demonstrated in autoimmune diseases, such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Hashimoto’s thyroiditis, Graves’ disease, Myasthenia Gravis, and Sjögren’s syndrome [4–10]. Naturally occurring autoantibody-specific anti-Id can be detected in relatives of SLE patients [11], individuals who were in contact with SLE patients [12], and even in healthy controls [7,13,14]. In marked contrast, these anti-Id are not present in most patients with active SLE [15,16]. However, patients in remission from SLE show a resurgence of anti-Id [7], suggesting a protective role of anti-Id.

Similarly, anti-Id specific to autoantibodies characteristic for Graves’ disease are associated with remission in Graves’ disease [17], and have been linked to a better response of patients to antithyroid drugs [18]. These findings further support the notion that autoantibodies are present in healthy individuals but concealed by the presence of anti-Id.

The role of anti-Id in the development of autoimmune diseases is unclear. A potential regulatory function of anti-Id is through neutralization of pathogenic autoantibodies, a mechanism that may explain the beneficial use of Intravenous Immunoglobulin in treatment of autoimmune diseases [19].
Previously, we demonstrated that injection of the T1D-associated human monoclonal GAD65Ab b96.11 into young non-obese diabetic (NOD) mice induced b96.11-specific anti-Id and significantly reduced the morbidity of T1D in the animals [20]. To elucidate the role of anti-Id in the regulation of the autoimmunity response, we developed a monoclonal anti-Id targeting the antigen binding site of b96.11. This murine anti-Id (MAb 8E6G4) is b96.11-specific and targets the antigen binding site of b96.11, preventing binding of GAD65 to b96.11 and not to other GAD65Abs. MAb 8E6G4 was successfully used to detect GAD65Ab in sera of individuals, who tested GAD65Ab-negative in conventional detection assays. We found that the levels of masked GAD65Ab in T1D patients and T2D patients were significantly higher than those in healthy individuals. Finally, injection of NOD mice with MAb 8E6G4 significantly reduced severity of insulitis and resulted in reduced incidence rate of diabetes. These findings suggest an immune modulatory role of GAD65Ab-specific anti-Id in the development of T1D.

Results

Development of monoclonal antibody 8E6G4 specific to b96.11

Animals responding to b96.11-injections with production of b96.11-reactive antibodies were identified by ELISA (data not shown). One animal showed good binding to b96.11 even at 1:250,000 dilution, while no binding to the control antibody hLF was detected. Hybridoma 8E6G4 was generated from this animal.

MAb 8E6G4 binds to human GAD65Ab b96.11 with high specificity and affinity

We characterized the binding of MAb 8E6G4 to b96.11 by dot-blot, ELISA, and immunoprecipitation. The dot blot analysis demonstrated that b96.11 showed significant binding to MAb 8E6G4 (both purified and supernatant) and did not bind BSA (Figure 1A). This specificity of MAb 8E6G4 was further established in immunoprecipitations where MAb 8E6G4 was incubated with b96.11 or control antibody hLF. The immune complexes were immunoprecipitated with Protein L-agarose [21], which binds only to kappa light chains and not lambda light chains. As b96.11 contains a lambda light chain this allowed the specific precipitation of MAb 8E6G4. Only b96.11 and not the control antibody hLF were detected in the subsequent analysis of the co-immunoprecipitated antibody by Western Blot analysis (Figure 1B). The dissociation constant (Kd) of MAb 8E6G4 to b96.11 was determined as 480.4 pM by non-competing ELISA (Figure 1C).

MAb 8E6G4 binding to GAD65Ab b96.11 is specifically blocked by GAD65

To establish the binding site of MAb 8E6G4, binding of MAb 8E6G4 to b96.11 was competed with recombinant GAD65 in a competitive ELISA (Figure 2A). We found that recombinant GAD65 significantly reduced MAb 8E6G4 binding to b96.11 in a specific and dose-dependent manner. This result strongly indicated that MAb 8E6G4 recognizes the antigen binding site of b96.11.

Binding of MAb 8E6G4 to GAD65Ab b96.11 is antibody-specific

The epitope specificity of MAb 8E6G4 was further explored by testing the binding of MAb 8E6G4 to b96.11 and other monoclonal GAD65Abs. Human GAD65-specific monoclonal antibodies b96.11 and b78 and mouse GAD65-specific monoclonal antibody N-GAD65mAb were incubated at their respective half-maximal binding concentrations (150, 800, and 40 ng/ml, respectively) with different concentrations of MAb 8E6G4 (0–0.32 µg/ml). Binding of the GAD65-specific monoclonal antibodies to radiolabeled GAD65 in the presence of MAb 8E6G4 was analyzed by RBA (Figure 2B). We found that only binding of b96.11 to GAD65 was inhibited by MAb 8E6G4, while binding of GAD65 by b78 or N-GAD65mAb was not affected. These findings support that MAb 8E6G4 is a b96.11-specific anti-Id that binds to the antigen-binding region of b96.11.

Sequence analysis of the heavy and light chain of MAb 8E6G4

The variable region protein sequences deduced from the nucleotide sequences were aligned for comparison with homologous sequences from the NCBI data bank. The nucleotide sequences for both heavy and kappa chain genes were submitted to GenBank under accession numbers JF345172 and JF345173, respectively. Sequence analysis of the heavy-chain-specific cDNA revealed that the heavy chain belonged to the mouse IgG heavy chain subgroup 1. Sequence analysis of the light-chain cDNA and database comparison revealed that the light belonged to the mouse kappa light-chain group 4–59. Comparison of the nucleotide sequences of the heavy- and light-chains with GenBank databases revealed no identity to previously reported sequences. The accuracy of the deduced amino acid sequence was verified by Mass Spectrometry analysis of purified MAb 8E6G4.
Previously we reported that sera that tested GAD65Ab-negative in conventional RBA, contained GAD65Ab in complex with anti-Id [2]. Removal of anti-Id allowed the detection of the GAD65Ab. To confirm these earlier findings we tested whether MAb 8E6G4 could detect GAD65Ab in sera of individuals, especially in healthy individuals and T2D patients, whose sera did not contain overt GAD65Ab. Initially we tested sera obtained from GAD65Ab-negative T2D patients (n = 22), healthy individuals (n = 40), and T1D patients (n = 10) by ELISA (Figure 3A). Of the ten T1D patients six sera tested GAD65Ab-positive.

We observed that human antibody bound specifically to MAb 8E6G4, while only four of the T2D patients’ sera showed binding to the control mouse antibodies. Binding levels in T1D patients and T2D patients significantly exceeded those observed in healthy individuals (p<0.0001). Binding levels in T1D patients and T2D patients did not differ significantly. Human antibodies in sera from GAD65Ab-positive and GAD65Ab-negative T1D patients bound equally well to MAb 8E6G4.

We established that the MAb 8E6G4-bound human antibody contained GAD65Ab by testing the eluted antibody for binding to GAD65 (Figure 3B). Sera of 40 GAD65Ab-negative healthy individuals were incubated with MAb 8E6G4-PAS and subsequently eluted. Elutions were immediately neutralized and tested for binding to GAD65 in RBA. Binding levels significantly increased (from a median GAD65Ab index of 0.02 to a median GAD65Ab index of 0.06) (p<0.0001). No significant increase in binding to islet cell autoantigen IA-2 was observed (data not shown). These findings confirm our earlier observation of GAD65Ab in sera of healthy individuals.

Injections of NOD mice with MAb 8E6G4 significantly delays the onset and reduces the incidence rate of diabetes

Animals were injected with MAb 8E6G4, a control mouse monoclonal antibody, or PBS. The animals were monitored...
weekly for diabetes development. Mice injected with PBS started to develop diabetes at five weeks of age and 10/12 (83%) animals developed diabetes by week 30, confirming the expected natural development of diabetes in NOD mice. Injection with control monoclonal antibody had no significant effect on the development of T1D. However, injections with 50 and 100 µg MAb 8E6G4 yielded a cumulative incidence rate of 8%, and 17%, respectively. The animals in the lower dose group developed diabetes at week 25 and 32, the only animal in the 100 µg group developed diabetes at week 27 (Figure 4). The reductions in incidence rate and delay in onset observed in animals injected with 50 µg or 100 µg MAb 8E6G4 was significant compared to control animals (p = 0.0006 and p = 0.0002, respectively).

MAb 8E6G4 reduces the severity of insulitis

The above effect was also reflected in the severity of insulitis. Insulitis was less severe in animals treated with 50 and 100 µg MAb 8E6G4 IgG as compared to the animals injected with PBS or control IgG (Table 1, Figure 5).

Discussion

In this study, we tested our hypothesis that anti-Id specific to GAD65Ab have a protective immune modulatory role in the development of T1D. We developed and characterized a monoclonal anti-Id (MAb 8E6G4) targeting the antigen-binding site of human monoclonal GAD65Ab b96.11. This murine antibody is specific to b96.11 and blocks binding of GAD65 to b96.11 meeting the criteria of a b96.11-specific anti-Id. MAb 8E6G4 bound to both overt and masked human antibodies in sera of T2D patients, T1D patients, and healthy individuals. We showed that the MAb 8E6G4-bound human antibodies contained GAD65Ab, confirming our earlier findings of the presence of GAD65Ab in healthy individuals [2]. The significantly higher levels of masked GAD65Ab in T2D patients as compared to healthy individuals may suggest islet autoreactivity in these patients [22]. Follow-up studies to determine the development of autoimmune diabetes in these patients are necessary to confirm this hypothesis.

Administration of MAb 8E6G4 to prediabetic NOD mice successfully reduced the severity of insulitis in the animals. Consequently, diabetes incidence was significantly reduced and age of onset was delayed as compared to control animals. This effect was antibody-specific, since administration of control mouse monoclonal antibody had no effect on the development of diabetes.

Successful prevention of diabetes in NOD mice has been achieved by a variety of approaches, including vaccination with autoantigens, manipulation of immune cells, cytokine or vitamin treatment [23–26]. While the isotype-control in the NOD injection protocol suggests that the preventative effect of MAb 8E6G4 is antibody specific, more studies are necessary to confirm this anti-Id as a novel treatment approach in NOD mice. In future studies we will determine the mechanisms by which MAb 8E6G4 affects the immune response. MAb 8E6G4 may function as an internal image of the antigen-binding site of b96.11, thereby mimicking GAD65 vaccination. Alternatively MAb 8E6G4 could modulate antigen presentation as discussed later.

In the Idiotype Network Hypothesis, Jerne postulated that under normal condition antibodies are kept in homeostasis by a network of idiotypic antibodies (Ab1) and their anti-Id (Ab2) [3]. When the anti-Id binds to the complementary determine region (CDR) of Ab1, it can compete the binding of Ab1 to antigen [27,28]. The invasion of pathogen or the exposure of autoantigen breaks the balance and leads to the domination of Ab1.

T1D is recognized as a cell-mediated autoimmune disease [29]. However, recent studies indicate a role of the humoral immune response in the pathogenesis of T1D, mainly through modulation and/or mediation of antigen presentation. Autoantibodies can enhance antigen presentation, thus lowering the antigen concentration necessary for T cell stimulation [30]. Depletion of B lymphocytes by anti-CD20 antibody delays onset of T1D in NOD
mice [31], and T1D patients treated with anti-CD20 showed improved islet beta-cell function, indicating an important role of B lymphocytes in T1D pathogenesis [32]. However, anti-CD20 treatment does not discriminate between beneficial and pathogenic B lymphocytes, leading to a weakened immune system. The specific removal of pathogenic autoantibodies or the neutralization of pathogenic B lymphocytes would provide a specific therapeutic strategy. Anti-Id have been shown to accomplish this specific task in experimental studies [33]. To date, treatment or prevention of T1D with GAD65Ab-specific anti-Id has not been reported. However, our previous study suggested that induction of GAD65Ab-specific anti-Id prevented onset of diabetes in NOD mice [20].

Our results of successful prevention of T1D by a b96.11-specific anti-Id not only support our hypothesis of a protective role of anti-Id in T1D, but they may also open pathways aimed at the prevention of T1D in human.

### Materials and Methods

#### Ethics Statement

Written informed consent was obtained from all participants or their legal guardian. This study was approved by the IRB of the Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China, and the IRB of the University of Washington, Seattle, USA.

The animal studies were approved by the animal care and use committee of Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. All procedures involving animals obeyed the animal care and use regulation of the Jiangsu province.

#### Patient cohorts

**T1D patients.** Sera of T1D patients (n = 10), (mean age: 21.9 years, age range: 12–29 years) were collected from 2008–2011 in Jiangsu Province Hospital of TCM, Nanjing, China.

**T2D patients.** GAD65Ab-negative sera of T2D patients (n = 22), (mean age: 59.1 years, age range: 32–86 years) were collected in Jiangsu Province Hospital of TCM, Nanjing, China. The patients were classified with T2D according to the 1997 American Diabetes Association criteria. None of these patients was diagnosed with autoimmune disease.

### Table 1. Degree of insulitis in NOD mice.

| Score | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|
| MAb 8E6G4 50 μg | 58 | 37 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| MAb 8E6G4 100 μg | 60 | 34 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| PBS | 0 | 0 | 13 | 17 | 70 |
| Control IgG | 0 | 0 | 12 | 17 | 71 |

Islets obtained from animals injected with MAb 8E6G4 IgG (50 and 100 μg), control IgG, and PBS were scored as normal islets (score 1), perivascular/periductal infiltration (score 2), peri-insulitis (score 3), mild insulitis (<25% of the islet infiltrated; score 4), and severe insulitis (more than 25% of the islet infiltrated, score 5). The mean score for each group was calculated by dividing the total score by the number of islets scored.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0032515.t001

#### Figure 5. The histopathology of pancreatic islets at onset of diabetes or at 40 weeks of age.

Representative images of pancreatic islets from animals injected with 50 μg (A) and 100 μg (B) MAb 8E6G4 IgG, or control animals (C). Pancreatic tissues were sectioned and stained with hematoxylin and eosin.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0032515.g005
Healthy individuals. GAD65Ab-negative individuals (n = 40) (mean age: 53.3 years, age range: 23–76 years) were collected in Jiangpu Province Hospital of TCM, Nanjing, China from volunteers who received annual physical examination in the hospital agreeing to donate blood samples.

Sera from additional healthy individuals (n = 40) (age at sampling >18 years) were selected based on GAD65Ab-titer and serum volume from a cohort of healthy individuals (n = 50). The samples were collected in 2002 in Seattle, USA. This cohort consisted of non-diabetic individuals without known autoimmune disease and no family history of diabetes.

Animals

Balb/c mice were purchased from Shanghai Slack Experimental Animal Center, Ltd (Shanghai, China) and maintained in the Experimental Animal Center of Nanjing Medical University of TCM.

Female NOD mice were purchased at 3 weeks of age (Beijing China Fukang Biological Technology Co. Ltd, Beijing, China). The mice were maintained in specific pathogen-free conditions in the animal facility under the regulation of local government.

Antibodies used in this study

Human monoclonal antibodies b96.11 and b78 specific to GAD65 were derived from a patient with autoimmune polyendocrine syndrome type 2 [40]. B96.11 recognizes an epitope that is specifically bound by patients with T1D [41]. B78 recognizes an epitope that is specifically bound by patients with SPS [42]. N-GAD65mAb is a mouse GAD65-specific monoclonal antibody that recognizes a linear epitope located at amino acid residues 4–22 of human GAD65 [43]. The chimeric antibody hLF is specific to anthrax lethal factor and served as a control antibody. It consists of the constant region of human immunoglobulin G and the murine variable region. The mouse monoclonal antibody used as a control antibody in the NOD injection protocol was a product of the animal facility under the regulation of local government.

Generation of hybridoma cell line MAb 8E6G4

Balb/c mice (4 weeks of age) were immunized with four intraperitoneal injections, each containing 10 µg b96.11 in complete (primary injection) or incomplete (booster injections) Freund’s adjuvant. Sera from immunized animals were tested for their binding to b96.11. The mouse with the highest titer was boosted with intravenous injections (both intraperitoneal and intravenously) of 10 µg of b96.11. Splenocytes were fused with SP2/0 cells by polyethylene glycol and the hybridoma cells were selected as previously described [26]. Culture supernatants of confluent cells were screened at different dilutions for antibodies to b96.11 by ELISA. Cells exhibiting the highest Ab titers were cloned by limiting dilutions in 96-well microculture plates and tested for reactivity with b96.11.

Injection of NOD mice with MAb 8E6G4

Young female NOD mice (4 weeks of age) (groups of 12) were injected intraperitoneal weekly with 50, or 100 µg antibody, or PBS. The injections continued until the animals reached 40 weeks of age or developed diabetes. All animals were monitored for the development of diabetes. Hyperglycemia was determined by weekly weighing and blood glucose level tests. Blood glucose levels were measured weekly by Abbott Medisense Optium Xceed (Abbott Laboratories S.A. Shanghai, China). Diabetes was defined by blood glucose levels of >13.9 mM for two consecutive weeks.

Upon confirmation of diabetes, the animal was killed. Degree of insulitis was established for at least 40 islets in each treatment group.

Insulitis scoring

A minimum of 40 islets/group were scored for insulitis. Scoring was performed under double-blinded conditions. The degree of insulitis was graded according to the following: normal islet, score 1; perivascular/periductal infiltration, score 2; peri-insulitis, score 3; mild insulitis (<25% of the islet infiltrated), score 4; and severe insulitis (more than 25% of the islet infiltrated), score 5.

Cloning of the heavy and light chain sequences

Gene fragments encoding the heavy and light chain of the antibody were amplified from 8E6G4 hybridoma by RT-PCR as described previously [13]. PCR was performed using standard procedures with Taq DNA Polymerase (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) at an annealing temperature of 60°C. The nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence were compared against known sequences in the NCBI database.

ELISA and competing ELISA

a) Detection of anti-Id specific to b96.11 by ELISA. Binding of mice serum, supernatant of hybridoma, and purified MAb 8E6G4 to b96.11 was tested by ELISA using standard procedures. Briefly, 96-well plates were coated with human monoclonal antibody b96.11 or control antibody (1 ng/µl) at 4°C overnight. Samples were added and incubated for 45 minutes at 37°C. Bound IgG was detected by addition of alkaline phosphatase-conjugated anti-mouse IgG (1:3,000) (Sigma-Aldrich China, Inc., Shanghai, China). Optical density (OD) at 405 nm was measured on a Quant Microplane Spectrophotometer (Bio-Tek China, Beijing, China). For competing ELISA, 1.4 µg/ml MAb 8E6G4 was preincubated with different amounts of in vitro synthesized GAD65, prior to addition to the coated plates.

b) Detection of GAD65Ab in human sera by ELISA on immobilized MAb 8E6G4. Human sera of healthy individuals (n = 40), T1D patients (n = 10), and T2D patients (n = 22) were tested for the presence of IgG binding to MAb 8E6G4 by ELISA. 96-well plates were coated with MAb 8E6G4 (1 ng/µl) as above. After blocking with 5% non-fat milk, human sera (50 µl) was added and incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes. The captured human antibody was detected by horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated goat anti-human IgG secondary antibody (1:5,000) (Beyotime Biotechnology Ltd, Haimen, China). Optical density (OD) at 450 nm was measured on a Quant Microplane Spectrophotometer (Bio-Tek China).  

Calculation of dissociation constant

The dissociation constant of MAb 8E6G4 was calculated by non-competing ELISA. Briefly, 96-well plates were coated with different concentrations of b96.11 (1, 2, and 4 ng/µl) and incubated with serial dilutions of MAb 8E6G4 (0–16.4 nM). Bound mouse antibody was detected as described above. The Kd was calculated as the following formula: Kd = 2(nKd/n-1), where n = [b96.11]/[b96.11].

Dot-blot

The supernatant of hybridoma 8E6G4, 50 ng of purified MAb 8E6G4, or 50 ng of bovine serum albumin were spotted onto
PVD-membranes. After blocking, the membrane was incubated with 10 µg/ml b96.11 at room temperature for 90 minutes. Bound b96.11 was detected by HRP-conjugated goat anti-human IgG secondary antibody (1:5,000) (Beyotime Biotechnology Ltd).

Immunoprecipitation (IP) and immunoblotting

a) GAD65Ab (50 µg) was incubated with MAb 8E6G4 (10 µg) or 1 ml of supernatant of hybridoma 8E6G4 at room temperature for 4 hours. MAb 8E6G4 was captured by protein-A coupled sepharose (50 µl) (Genscript, Hong Kong, China) at 4°C overnight with continuous rotation. The captured protein complexes were resolved by SDS-PAGE and transferred to PVD-membranes. b96.11 was detected as described under Dot blot.

b) Sera obtained from healthy individuals (1 ml) were incubated with 100 µl of MAb 8E6G4 immobilized to Sepharose beads for 10 min at 50°C followed by 30 min at 37°C and finally 10 min at room temperature. After the removal of the supernatant, the beads were washed extensively with PBS. The bound anti-Id were eluted by incubation with 0.2 M glycine, pH 10.0 and neutralized. The eluted fractions were analyzed for GAD65Ab in a RBA.

Radioligand binding assay (RBA)

GAD65Ab were measured as described previously in a RBA [44]. Briefly, recombinant 35S-GAD65 was produced in an in vitro coupled transcription and translation system with SP6 RNA polymerase and nuclelease treated rabbit reticulocyte lysate (Promega, Madison, WI, USA). The in vitro translated 35S-GAD65 was kept at −70°C and used within 2 weeks of preparation. Monoclonal antibodies were incubated at the indicated concentrations with 35S-GAD65 (25,000 of TCA precipitable radioactivity). After overnight incubation, free 35S-GAD65 was separated from the antibody-bound tracer by precipitation with Protein A Sepharose (Invitrogen). The immunoprecipitated radioactivity was counted on a Wallac Microbeta Liquid Scintillation Counter (Perkin Elmer Life and Analytical Sciences, Inc, Boston, MA, USA). All samples were analyzed in triplicate determinations.

In the Diabetes Antibody Standardization Program (DASP) workshop 2003 the GAD65Ab analysis ranked at 80% sensitivity and 91% specificity.

Statistical analysis

Incidence of diabetes was compared between the different NOD groups using the nonparametric log rank test. Median GAD65Ab levels were compared using the non-parametric Wilcoxon signed rank test. Significance was defined by P<0.05.

Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to Dr. Guiqeng Ding of Nanjing Medical University for providing the control antibody hLF.

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: XW AZ YL ZF WS CSH. Performed the experiments: XW JR CSH SC. Analyzed the data: XW MM CSH. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: XW CSH. Wrote the paper: XW CSH.

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