

Characterisation of an inhibitory monoclonal antibody-defined epitope on a malaria vaccine candidate antigen

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1. Summary

A monoclonal antibody that recognises a recently characterised 45-kDa merozoite surface antigen of the human malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* inhibits the growth of the asexual blood stages of the parasite in vitro. The corresponding epitope has been determined by testing the reactivity of the antibody with sequentially overlapping octapeptides. A synthetic peptide containing the epitope elicits antibodies that react with the native antigen. Epitope mapping in this manner is useful in the design of synthetic vaccines against malaria.