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Authors
Burke, BP
Levin, BR
Zhang, J
et al.

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Engineering Cellular Resistance to HIV-1 Infection In Vivo Using a Dual Therapeutic Lentiviral Vector

Bryan P Burke1, Bernard R Levin2, Jane Zhang1, Anna Sahakyan2, Joshua Boyer3, Maria V Carroll1, Joanna Camba Colón1, Naomi Keech1, Valerie Rezek2, Gregory Bristol1, Erica Eggers2, Ruth Cortado2, Maureen P Boyd1, Helen Impey1, Sakki Shimizu3, Emily L Lowe4, Gene-Errol E Ringpis1, Sohn G Kim2, Dimitrios N Vatakis2, Louis R Breton1, Jeffrey S Bartlett1, Irvin SY Chen4, Scott G Kitchen2, Dong Sung An3 and Geoff P Symonds1

We described earlier a dual-combination anti-HIV type 1 (HIV-1) lentiviral vector (LVsh5/C46) that downregulates CCR5 expression of transduced cells via RNAi and inhibits HIV-1 fusion via cell surface expression of cell membrane-anchored C46 antiviral peptide. This combinatorial approach has two points of inhibition for R5-tropic HIV-1 and is also active against X4-tropic HIV-1. Here, we utilize the humanized bone marrow, liver, thymus (BLT) mouse model to characterize the in vivo efficacy of LVsh5/C46 (Cal-1) vector to engineer cellular resistance to HIV-1 pathogenesis. Human CD34+ hematopoietic stem/progenitor cells (HSPC) either nonmodified or transduced with LVsh5/C46 vector were transplanted to generate control and treatment groups, respectively. Control and experimental groups displayed similar engraftment and multilineage hematopoietic differentiation that included robust CD4+ T-cell development. Splenocytes isolated from the treatment group were resistant to both R5- and X4-tropic HIV-1 during ex vivo challenge experiments. Treatment group animals challenged with R5-tropic HIV-1 displayed significant protection of CD4+ T-cells and reduced viral load within peripheral blood and lymphoid tissues up to 14 weeks postinfection. Gene-marking and transgene expression were confirmed stable at 26 weeks post-transplantation. These data strongly support the use of LVsh5/C46 lentiviral vector in gene and cell therapeutic applications for inhibition of HIV-1 infection.

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Subject Category: siRNAs, shRNAs, and miRNAs Therapeutic proof-of-concept

Introduction

It is estimated that 33 million individuals are currently infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and the ensuing disease of acquired immune deficiency syndrome remains a major concern for global public health.1 Advances in treatment for HIV infection, such as the discovery and implementation of highly active antiretroviral therapy have dramatically restored the life expectancy and quality of life for HIV-positive patients.2 However, multiple complications associated with highly active antiretroviral therapy have been described, including drug toxicities over short- and long-term use, noncompliance to the daily drug regimen, and development of drug-resistant HIV type 1 (HIV-1) viral strains.3–7 Furthermore, highly active antiretroviral therapy is not a curative approach for the treatment of HIV infection, and there are no vaccines currently effective against HIV.8–10 Thus, the development of alternative methods is desired to provide a one-time or infrequent treatment that would reduce, if not eliminate, the requirements of highly active antiretroviral therapy to treat HIV-positive patients. Recently, the first documented case of a “functional cure” for HIV-1 infection has been reported, in which the patient received a bone marrow transplant from a donor homozygous for the Δ32 CCR5 deletion.11–14 Alternatively, autologous cells can be engineered resistant to HIV-1 infection by transduction with lentiviral vectors that express anti-HIV genes that target various aspects of the HIV-1 lifecycle such as the HIV coreceptor CCR5.15–17

We previously developed a third generation self-inactivating lentiviral vector that expresses two anti-HIV agents: sh5, a short hairpin RNA (shRNA) specific to human CCR5 that is expressed from the H1 promoter, and C46, a cell membrane-anchored HIV-1 fusion inhibitor that is expressed from the Ubiquitin C promoter.18 This dual combination vector named LVsh5/C46, or Cal-1, provides two points of inhibition for R5-tropic HIV-1, is active against HIV-1 strains that do not use CCR5 such as X4-tropic HIV-1, and has been shown to protect transduced cells from a broad range of HIV-1 strains including lab adapted and clinical isolates from various clades (B and D) with the three major tropisms (R5-, X4-, and dual-tropic).18 The two anti-HIV agents, sh5 and C46, inhibit separate immediate-early stages of the viral lifecycle prior to entry, thus preventing accumulation of postintegrated provirus and reduces potential occurrence of escape mutations to a single agent. Sh5, a CCR5-specific shRNA, degrades CCR5 mRNA and prevents protein production thereby inhibiting cell surface expression of CCR5. This particular shRNA to CCR5 (referred to as CCR5 shRNA 1005) has been extensively characterized in primary human cells in vitro and in the humanized bone marrow, liver, thymus (BLT) mouse model in vivo.19–22 In addition, a rhesus macaque-adapted analog of this shRNA displayed stable CCR5 downregulation in nonhuman primate hematopoietic stem/progenitor cells (HSPC) transplant studies.23,24 C46 antiviral peptide is a membrane-anchored C-peptide specific to HIV-1 envelope

1Calimmune, Inc., Los Angeles, California, USA; 2Division of Hematology-Oncology and the UCLA Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA; 3School of Nursing at UCLA, UCLA AIDS Institute, Los Angeles, California, USA; 4Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA Correspondence: Bryan Burke, Clinical Research and Development, Calimmune, Inc., 10990 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1050, Los Angeles, California 90024, USA. E-mail: bryan.burke@calimmuneinc.com

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glycoprotein gp41 and prevents the conformational change required for viral envelope fusion with the cellular membrane.²⁵ C46 has been extensively characterized in preclinical studies which demonstrated significant protection from a broad range of HIV-1 strains with minimal evidence for development of viral escape and has also been tested in a phase 1 clinical trial treating HIV-1 positive patients with gene-modified autologous CD4+ T lymphocytes.²⁶⁻²⁹ More recent preclinical efficacy studies using transduced autologous CD34+ HSPC has demonstrated significant C46-mediated protection from SHIV in nonhuman primates.²⁷,³⁰,³¹ The combined utility of C46 expression and CCR5 downregulation via RNAi makes the LVsh5/C46 vector a powerful approach for engineering cellular resistance to HIV-1 infection. Here, we report the first demonstration of LVsh5/C46 vector to engineer human hematopoietic cellular resistance to HIV-1 infection.

Results
Engraftment of LVsh5/C46 vector transduced human CD34+ HSPC
The humanized BLT mouse model was utilized to characterize the ability of LVsh5/C46 (Cal-1) vector to engineer human hematopoietic cellular resistance to HIV-1 infection in vivo. Two groups of BLT mice were generated in parallel: a control group using nonmodified human CD34+ HSPC, and a treatment group using human CD34+ HSPC transduced with LVsh5/C46 vector. Transduction efficiency was determined as 2.86 ± 0.27 vector copies/cell on day 12 post-transduction by qPCR, and we hypothesize that the majority of cells were transduced with at least one vector copy per cell. The ability of LVsh5/C46 modified human CD34+ HSPC to engineer cellular resistance to HIV-1 infection was assessed in ex vivo challenge experiments using both R5-tropic and X4-tropic strains of HIV-1, and in in vivo challenge experiments with R5-tropic HIV-1 spanning 14 weeks postinfection. Downregulation of CCR5 expression in CD4+ T-cells was observed in vivo using a reporter version of LVsh5/C46 (LVsh5/C46/ZsG). These studies provide data that support the efficacy of LVsh5/C46 vector to inhibit R5- and X4-tropic strains of HIV-1, including in vivo protection from high-dose R5-tropic HIV-1 challenge, which resulted in protection of CD4+ T-cells and reduced viral load within peripheral blood and lymphoid tissues.

Figure 1 Peripheral blood engraftment at week 12 posttransplantation. FACS analysis of peripheral blood samples was conducted to determine the level of hematopoietic engraftment of LVsh5/C46 treated CD34+ HSPC (Cal-1) compared to nonmodified human CD34+ HSPC (Control). Percentage of each human cell population is displayed and the parental cell population is listed below in parenthesis. The average value of 11 animals per group is plotted with error bars representing the SD. N.S.: nonsignificant difference (P > 0.05) between the average means of each group using a two-tailed unpaired t-test.

Figure 2 LVsh5/C46-mediated resistance to R5- and X4-tropic HIV-1 infection. Ex vivo challenge experiments were performed using bulk splenocytes from BLT mice humanized with LVsh5/C46 transduced CD34+ HSPC (Cal-1) or with mock transduced CD34+ HSPC (Control). Splenocytes were harvested at week 12 post-transplantation from each group of animals and stimulated for 5 days with IL-2 and phytohaemagglutinin prior to challenge with R5-tropic BaL HIV-1 (a) or X4-tropic NL4-3 HIV-1 (b). At days 3, 6, 9, and 12 postinfection supernatants were collected and analyzed for HIV Gag p24 protein by ELISA to monitor the amount of HIV replication in culture. Error bars represent the SD of triplicate p24 ELISA assays.
peripheral blood samples at week 12 post-transplantation (Figure 1). LVsh5/C46-transduced CD34+ HSPC and nonmodified CD34+ HSPC both displayed robust engraftment of human CD45+ cells in vivo (control: 87%, treatment: 78%, average of total cell population). Robust development of CD3+ T-cells was observed within the human CD45+ leukocyte population for both groups of animals (control: 54%, treatment 59%, average within CD45+ population). The control and experimental groups displayed similar development of human CD4+ T-cells (control: 87%, LVsh5/C46: 85%, average within CD3+ population) and CD8+ T-cells (control: 12%, LVsh5/C46: 14%, average within CD3+), and CD4+/CD8+ T-cell ratios (control: 7.4, LVsh5/C46: 6.6%, average ratio within CD3+). No statistically significant difference was observed between the groups regarding T-cell engraftment and differentiation. Overall, these data support the safety and feasibility of LVsh5/C46-modified CD34+ HSPC to efficiently engraft in vivo and undergo multilineage hematopoietic development, including CD4+ T-cell differentiation.

LVsh5/C46-mediated resistance to R5- and X4-tropic HIV-1 infection

Ex vivo HIV-1 challenge experiments were conducted to evaluate the ability of LVsh5/C46 vector to confer protection to human hematopoietic cells from HIV-1 pathogenesis. BLT mice from the control group and treatment group were sacrificed at week 12 post-transplantation and bulk splenocytes were isolated and stimulated with interleukin-2 (IL-2) and phytohemagglutinin prior to infection with R5-tropic (BaL) or X4-tropic (NL4-3) HIV-1 at a MOI of 1. Splenocytes from control animals displayed robust HIV-1 replication for both R5-tropic and X4-tropic HIV; conversely, splenocytes from the treatment group of animals displayed minimal evidence of HIV-1 replication for both R5-tropic (BaL) and X4-tropic (NL4-3) HIV-1 (Figure 2). At day 12 postinfection, the amount of p24 for LVsh5/C46 conditions was reduced 5.2-fold for R5-tropic BaL HIV-1 and 6.4-fold for X4-tropic NL4-3 HIV-1 when compared with nontransduced controls. Overall, these data provide strong evidence for LVsh5/C46-mediated protection from both R5-tropic and X4-tropic HIV-1 infection.

In vivo protection of CD4+ T-cells and reduced HIV-1 viral load

At 12 weeks post-transplantation of human CD34+ HSPC, control BLT mice (N = 8) and treatment BLT mice (N = 8) were intravenously infected with a high dose of R5-tropic BaL HIV-1 (1,600ng p24 per animal). CD4+ T-cell levels and viral load in peripheral blood were assessed up to week 14 postinfection to determine the pathogenic effect of HIV-1 infection. Within the control animals, human CD4+ T-cell percentages gradually declined over the course of the infection, most severely at weeks 10–14 postinfection when compared with that of the treatment group (Figure 3a). In contrast, the treatment group of animals stably maintained human CD4+ T-cells levels within the peripheral blood up to terminal analysis at week 14 postinfection, and this protection was statistically significant when compared with control animals overall (likelihood ratio test P < 0.05). HIV-1 plasma viremia analysis was performed to assess the viral load within peripheral blood of animals from control and treatment groups. Control animals displayed high levels of HIV-1 plasma viremia, while the treatment group of animals displayed background levels of detection. Differences in viral load between the control and treatment groups were statistically significant overall (likelihood ratio test P < 0.05) and at individual time points starting at week 8 postinfection through terminal analysis at week 14 postinfection (adjusted P < 0.05, Figure 3b). Recently, this Roche-based HIV-1 viral load assay has been shown to cross-react with lentiviral vector sequences in X-SCID gene therapy trials, which likely accounts for the increased level of background observed in baseline samples (week 0 postinfection) collected from the treatment group of animals prior to HIV-1 infection.36 Overall, maintenance of CD4+ T-cell levels and reduced viral load provides strong evidence for LVsh5/C46-mediated protection from HIV-1 pathogenesis in vivo.
At week 14 postinfection, the remaining animals were sacrificed and processed to further characterize the protective effects of LVsh5/C46 on HIV-1 infection in vivo. FACS analysis of CD4+ T-cell percentages and qPCR analysis of HIV-1 DNA proviral load was conducted on cellular samples harvested from bone marrow, spleen, and thymus (human thymus/liver implants) of control (N = 7) and LVsh5/C46-treated (N = 6) BLT mice. Consistent with results observed in the peripheral blood, control animals displayed a reduction in CD4+ T-cells percentages when compared with the LVsh5/C46 treatment group within bone marrow (control: 36%, LVsh5/C46: 61%, average CD4+) and spleen (control: 57%, LVsh5/C46: 77%, average CD4+), and also a reduction of CD4+ thymocytes within the thymus (control: 66%, LVsh5/C46: 91%, average CD4+) (P < 0.05 for all tissues, Figure 4a). These data confirm significant LVsh5/C46-mediated protection of CD4+ T-cells within the tissue of animals up to 14 weeks postinfection with HIV-1.

HIV-1 DNA proviral load analysis was then performed to compare the level of infection between the control and LVsh5/C46 treated groups of animals using genomic DNA extracted from the bone marrow, spleen, and thymus of each animal at terminal analysis. HIV-1 DNA was detected within all control animals and the level of proviral load was significantly higher within the bone marrow, spleen, and thymus when compared with LVsh5/C46-treated animals (P < 0.05 for all tissues, Figure 4b). Interestingly, HIV-1 DNA was not detected within any of the tissues of LVsh5/C46-treated animals when using a qPCR assay that has a limit of detection of ~1 HIV DNA copy per 1,000 cells. These data confirm LVsh5/C46-mediated reduction of HIV-1 proviral load within the tissue of animals up to 14 weeks postinfection. These data provide compelling evidence that LVsh5/C46-modified human CD34+ HSPC engrafted and differentiated normally in vivo and that the progeny of LVsh5/C46-modified CD34+ HSPC conferred protection from HIV-mediated pathogenesis and significantly reduced viral load within peripheral blood and tissues up to 6 months post-transplantation.

**Stable LVsh5/C46 gene-marking and transgene expression in vivo**

To confirm the presence and stability of LVsh5/C46-modified cells, LVsh5/C46 gene-marking analysis was performed at week 26 post-transplantation (week 14 postinfection). LVsh5/C46 gene-marking was detected within the peripheral blood (0.60 ± 0.22 average vector copies/cell), bone marrow (1.30 ± 0.62 average vector copies/cell), spleen (1.23 ± 0.30 average vector copies/cell), and thymus (0.39 ± 0.29 average vector copies/cell) of each animal in the LVsh5/C46 treatment group (N = 6) with a total average of 0.88 ± 0.45 LVsh5/C46 vector copies/cell within the tissues analyzed at week 26 post-transplantation (Figure 5a). Gene-marking was not measured over time to determine if LVsh5/C46-modified cells had a selective advantage during in vivo HIV-1 challenge. The vector copy number values of samples obtained post-transplantation were slightly less when compared with

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**Figure 4 Protection of CD4+ cells and reduced HIV-1 proviral load within lymphoid tissues.** Terminal analysis was performed on remaining animals at week 14 postinfection. (a) Percentage of human CD4+ T-cells within the bone marrow and spleen, and percentage of CD4+ thymocytes within the thymus was determined by FACS analysis of the human CD45+CD3+ parental population. (b) HIV-1 DNA proviral load was quantified via qPCR analysis of genomic DNA extracted from bone marrow, spleen, and thymus. Values are displayed for individual control animals (N = 7; closed circles) and treatment animals (N = 6; open squares). The median for each group is displayed as a horizontal line, and error bars represent the interquartile range. Mann–Whitney tests confirmed significant differences between the distributions of each group for all tissues (P < 0.05).
the transduction efficiency assessment of CD34+ cells from extended culture. The difference in these values can be attributed to the transduction efficiency assessment being from a bulk culture of CD34+ cells and that the hematopoietic stem cells that engrafted likely had a reduced vector copy number value when compared with that of further differentiated hematopoietic progenitors within culture. As expected, the LVsh5/C46 vector sequence was not detected within control animals. These data demonstrate effective engraftment of LVsh5/C46 vector-modified HSPC and the persistence of gene-modified cells at significant levels in vivo for up to 6 months.

LVsh5/C46 transgene expression was determined within animals at terminal analysis to confirm that both sh5 and C46 transgenes were stably expressed within the peripheral blood and lymphoid tissues of treatment group animals up to 6 months post-transplantation of transduced human CD34+ HSPC (14 weeks postinfection with HIV-1). RT-qPCR assays confirmed expression of both sh5 and C46 transgenes within the peripheral blood, bone marrow, spleen, and thymus of all treatment group animals at week 26 post-transplantation; as expected, sh5 and C46 target sequences were not detected within control animals (Figure 5b,c). Overall, these data strongly support the safety and feasibility of LVsh5/C46-transduced human CD34+ HSPC to engraft in vivo and produce progeny with stable LVsh5/C46 gene-marking and persistent expression of both sh5 and C46 transgenes within the peripheral blood and lymphoid tissues of treated animals for up to 6 months post-transplantation.

**In vitro CCR5 downregulation by LVsh5/C46/ZsG reporter lentiviral vector**

A reporter vector version of LVsh5/C46 vector which incorporates an EF1α promoter-driven ZsGreen expression cassette (LVsh5/C46/ZsG) was generated to allow characterization specifically of transduced cells modified to express sh5 and C46. PBMC were transduced with LVsh5/C46/ZsG reporter vectors that express sh5 or C46 alone, or a control vector (ZsGreen alone). Significant downregulation of CCR5 cell-surface expression was observed in cells transduced with vectors containing sh5 (LVsh5 and LVsh5/C46/ZsG) (Figure 6a,b). LVsh5/C46/ZsG dual vector achieved similar levels of CCR5 downregulation as with the LVsh5 single vector, demonstrating that downstream addition of the C46 expression cassette does not interfere with shRNA activity. The expression of CXCR4, which is the second most commonly utilized HIV-1 coreceptor (the first one being CCR5 (ref. 36)), was not affected by any of the vectors.
In vivo CCR5 downregulation by LVsh5/C46/ZsG reporter lentiviral vector

Human fetal liver derived CD34+ HSPC were transduced with either LVsh5/C46/ZsG vector (MOI 5–20) or a control vector (MOI 1–3) that expresses the mCherry reporter gene. The average transduction efficiency was ~40% for the LVsh5/C46/ZsG vector and 55% for the control vector. NOD.Cg-Pkdcr1and II2rgtm1Myj/SzJ (NSG) mice were then transplanted with a 50 : 50 mixture of therapeutic vector and control vector transduced cells along with thymus pieces to generate hu-BLT mice, as described earlier. In this manner, the impact of the therapeutic and control vectors can be measured independently within the same animal. At week 20 post-transplantation, both ZsGreen and mCherry expressing cells were detected in human CD45+ populations of CD3+ T lymphocytes, CD4+ T lymphocytes, CD8+ T lymphocytes, CD19+ B lymphocytes, and CD14+ monocyte/macrophages in peripheral blood, bone marrow, spleen, and the gut-associated lymphoid tissue (Supplementary Table S1). These results demonstrate that LVsh5/C46/ZsG vector-transduced human CD34+ HSPC can differentiate into multilineage hematopoietic cells in peripheral blood and multiple lymphoid tissues.

We next examined CCR5 downregulation in LVsh5/C46/ZsG vector-transduced CD4+ T lymphocytes in lymphoid tissues at 20 weeks post-transplantation. CCR5 expression was efficiently downregulated in ZsGreen+ CD4+ T lymphocytes in peripheral blood, spleen, bone marrow, and the gut-associated lymphoid tissue (Figure 7). In contrast, CCR5 expression remained elevated in mCherry+ control CD4+ T lymphocytes, showing the specificity of CCR5 downregulation by the LVsh5/C46/ZsG vector. Furthermore, ex vivo challenge of purified ZsGreen- or mCherry-expressing splenocytes demonstrated that LVsh5/C46/ZsG vector engineered cellular resistance to infection from both R5-tropic and X4-tropic strains of HIV-1 (Supplementary Figure S2). Overall, these data demonstrate that LVsh5/C46/ZsG vector-transduced human CD34+ HSPC can support reconstitution of multilineage hematopoietic engraftment and differentiation in the humanized BLT mouse model, efficiently downregulate CCR5 expression in human CD4+ T lymphocytes in multiple lymphoid tissues including the gut-associated lymphoid tissue, and engineer cellular resistance to both R5-tropic and X4-tropic HIV infection.

Discussion

We have developed a third generation lentiviral vector (LVsh5/C46) that engineers cellular resistance to HIV-1 infection by expressing two active anti-HIV agents: sh5, a siRNA that downregulates CCR5 expression, and C46, a cell surface membrane-anchored fusion inhibitor peptide. The sh5 transgene has been proven safe and effective in delivering stable transgene alone, such as providing two separate mechanisms that protect against R5-tropic HIV-1 to reduce potential development of single agent escape mutations and also providing active protection from a broad range of HIV-1 variants that includes X4-tropic HIV-1. Previous reports also indicate...
potential for a synergistic effect of the combined mechanisms by theoretically extending the therapeutic window of C46-related fusion inhibitors during instances of reduced coreceptor availability.38–40

Here we utilized the humanized BLT mouse model during preclinical studies designed to characterize the ability of LVsh5/C46 vector to protect human hematopoietic cells from HIV-1 infection in vivo. Human CD34+ HSPC were transduced with preclinical LVsh5/C46 vector at a MOI of 10 in a 24-hour transduction protocol resulting in 2.86 ± 0.27 vector copies/cell. No differences in engraftment were observed between control and experimental groups, which included robust CD4+ T-cells development. Ex vivo challenge experiments with splenocytes from the treatment group displayed protection from both R5-tropic and X4-tropic HIV-1 infection, with inhibition of HIV-1 replication as measured by p24 ELISA of culture supernatant. Twelve weeks after human CD34+ HSPC transplantation, high-dose intravenous infection of R5-tropic HIV-1 exists. Treatment group animals maintained CD4+ T-cell levels and reduced viral loads within the peripheral blood and lymphoid tissues. Interestingly, the treatment group of animals displayed background levels of HIV-1 detection within the peripheral blood and lymphoid tissues tested at 14 weeks postinfection. The lack of substantial evidence of HIV-1 detection within the treatment group suggests that LVsh5/C46-modified cells were able to systemically control the infection or potentially completely inhibit the initial viral challenge infection. Furthermore, LVsh5/C46 gene-marking and transgene expression was stable up to 6 months post-transplantation of transduced CD34+ HSPC, and a reporter version of the construct was able to demonstrate significant downregulation of CCR5 in vector-modified cells in vivo. In total, these data support the use of LVsh5/C46 vector as a single dose treatment that can constitutively deliver a therapeutic advantage to cells and allow for long-term engraftment and cellular resistance to HIV-1 pathogenesis in vivo by downregulating CCR5 expression and inhibiting HIV-1 fusion via C46. LVsh5/C46 lentiviral vector is built on decades
of HIV-1 gene therapy experience and adds to the developing technologies designed to stably engineer cellular protection from HIV-1 infection such as CCR5-specific nucleases and immunophrophylaxis.\textsuperscript{6,17,41,42} Currently, underway is a phase 1/2 clinical trial designed to test the safety and feasibility of infusing LVsh5/C46-modified CD34+ HSPC and CD4+ T-cells to treat HIV-1 infection without the use of antiretroviral drugs, and includes the use of busulfan as conditioning to enhance engraftment of LVsh5/C46-modified CD34+ HSPC.\textsuperscript{43}

Materials and methods

Generation of humanized BLT mice. A total of 28 NOD/SCID/IL2γ\textsuperscript{-/-} (NSG) mice were used in the study to generate humanized BLT animals according to UCLA Humanized Mouse Core Laboratory procedures.\textsuperscript{44} In brief, NSG animals were conditioned with total body irradiation at a dose of 270 rads, and then 14 animals per group received a cellular product consisting of \(1 \times 10^6\) human fetal liver-derived CD34+ HSPC per mouse from a single human donor. CD34+ HSPC were either nonmodified (control group) or transduced with LVsh5/C46 vector at MOI of 10 (treatment group) during overnight culture in media supplemented with thrombopoietin, stem cell factor, and Flt3 ligand (50 ng/ml each) using RetroNectin (20 µg/ml) coated six-well plates. Each group of animals received \(5 \times 10^5\) CD4+ HSPC transplanted with thymic stromal tissue and matrigel under the mouse kidney capsule, and an additional \(5 \times 10^5\) CD34+ HSPC infused retro-orbitally on the same day. At week 12 post-transplantation, 11 animals per group survived with >10% human CD3+ T-cells, and these animals were then designated for balanced ex vivo and in vivo HIV-1 challenge analysis.

Ex vivo HIV-1 challenge. Animals were sacrificed at week 12 post-transplantation of human CD34+ HSPC, spleens were harvested, splenocytes were stimulated for 3 days in RPMI +10% FBS + IL-2 (20 U/ml) + phytohemagglutinin (5 µg/ml), then cryopreserved. Cryopreserved splenocytes were thawed and combined per group, then stimulated for (5 µg/ml), then cryopreserved. Cryopreserved splenocytes on the same day. At week 12 post-transplantation, 11 animals per group survived with >10% human CD3+ T-cells, and these animals were then designated for balanced ex vivo and in vivo HIV-1 challenge analysis.

Molecular and cellular analysis. HIV-1 strain BaL was prepared by infecting PM-1 cells and titre was determined using the lme4 (ref. 47) and qvalue\textsuperscript{48} packages in R.\textsuperscript{49} Inhibition of R5-tropic and X4-tropic HIV infection by LVsh5/C46/ZsG reporter vector in PBMC in vitro. Mixed effect regression analyses were conducted using the lme4 (ref. 47) and qvalue\textsuperscript{48} packages in R.\textsuperscript{49} Additional analyses were conducted using GraphPad Prism (version 5.04) for Windows. Significance was assessed at the 0.05 level (for both adjusted and unadjusted \(P\) values) and all tests were two-tailed.

Supplementary material

Figure S1. Inhibition of R5-tropic and X4-tropic HIV infection by LVsh5/C46/ZsG reporter vector in PBMC in vitro.

Figure S2. Inhibition of R5-tropic and X4-tropic HIV infection by LVsh5/C46/ZsG reporter vector in splenocytes ex vivo.

Table S1. In vivo multi-lineage reconstitution of LVsh5/C46/ZsG reporter lentiviral vector transduced cells.
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Hematopoietic Stem Cell Gene Therapy for HIV-1
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